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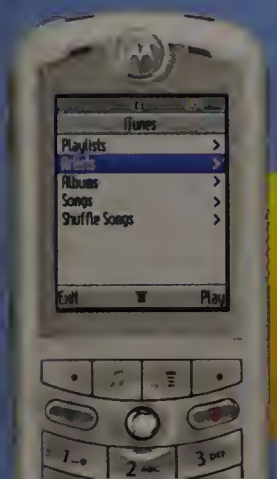
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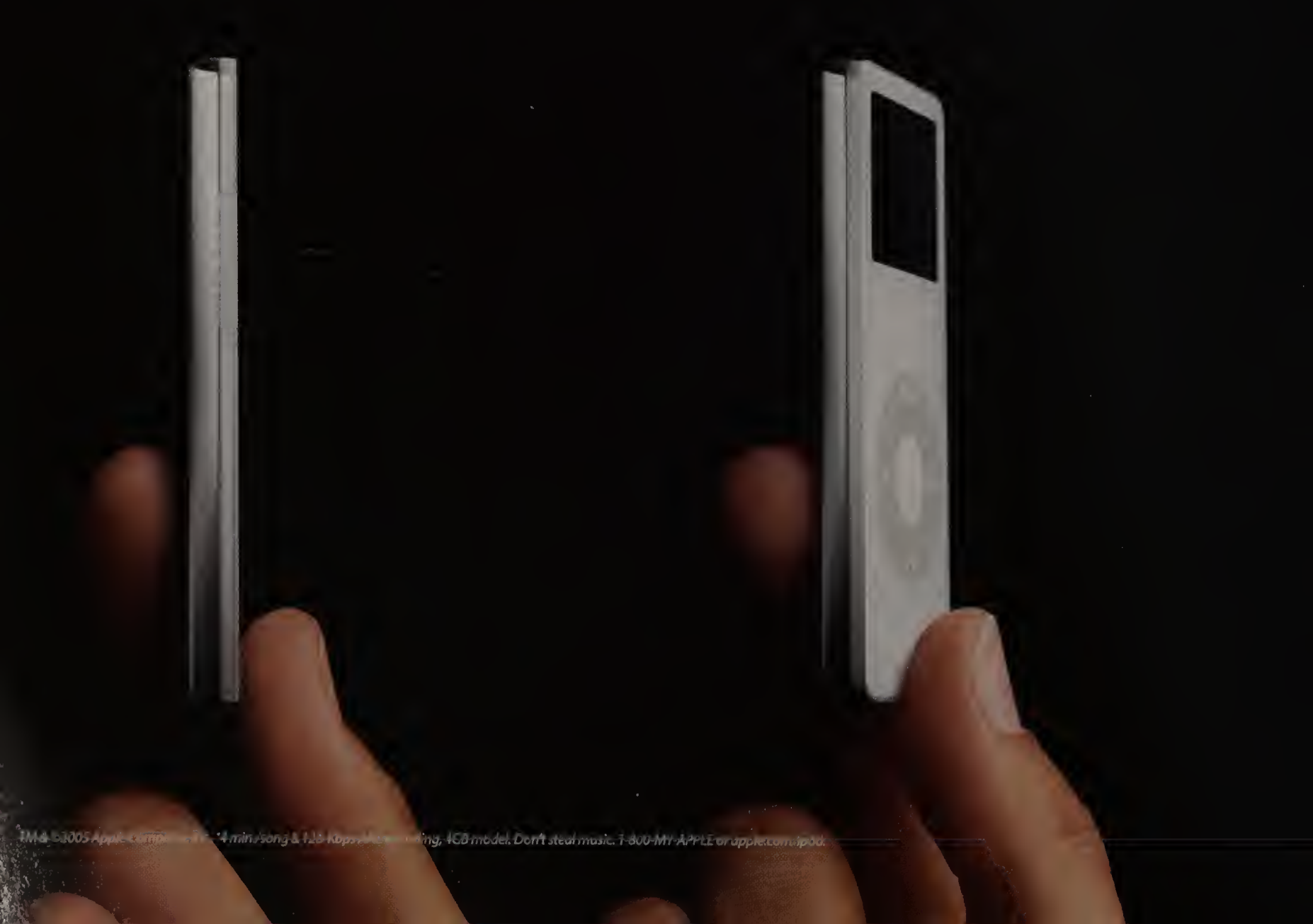
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SAY HELLO
iTunes on a Cell Phone: The Rokr



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Macworld doesn't end on the last page. All magazine readers also have free access to a new virtual CD-ROM each month. To view this month's exclusive content, go to the following URL (broadband Internet recommended):
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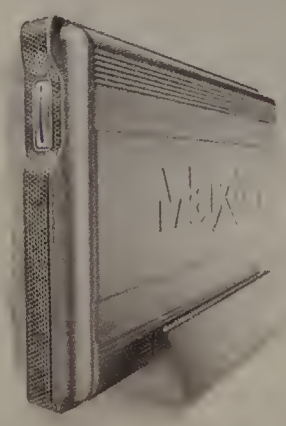
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iPods Great and Small

It never fails. Every time you think Apple is going to zig, the company zags instead. On September 7, everyone in the world was expecting Apple to announce a cellular phone that worked with iTunes. And that's what we got. But we also got something much more momentous—the bold replacement of the hugely popular iPod mini with the groundbreaking new iPod nano (see page 12 for details).

Not Standing Still

Apple is most definitely not playing defense. Even though the iPod is by far the most popular digital music player on the planet, the company knows that dozens of competitors are trying to knock it off its throne. If Apple had kept the iPod mini in its product line for this year's holiday season, would it have sold a zillion of them? Undoubtedly. But at the same time, its competitors would have crept a little bit closer. Would they have crept close enough to seriously threaten the iPod mini's rule? Not in 2005, certainly. But eventually, yes.

That's why Apple has adopted a philosophy of many successful sports teams: Better to make a change one year too early than one year too late. So the iPod mini—even though it was still a winner—had to go.

Inventing Nanotechnology

For me, the most impressive thing about the iPod nano is that it's undeniably *an iPod*. It has the same design as the full-size model, with a Click Wheel, a color screen, and the ability to display photos. The biggest differences between the nano and the full-size iPods are storage space and size.

The iPod nano isn't nearly as good a per-gigabyte value as the full-size iPods. But the iPod mini was also introduced at $249 for 4GB of storage, and that didn't stop it from becoming a huge hit.

I don't think this value issue will hurt the nano: Many people don't need to carry tens of thousands of songs with them—for many potential iPod buyers, the size of the iPod is more important than the price. And if price is truly a concern, buyers can opt for the 2GB model. (For a helpful guide to picking the iPod that's right for you, see *Playlist* [page 70].)

To me, the most appealing thing about the iPod nano is its size. Even if you can't remember the days when 10MB of hard-drive space was more than many of us thought we'd ever need, you've got to be amazed to find several gigabytes of data on a chip that's the size of your thumbnail. It's hard to grasp just how small the iPod nano is until you, well, *grasp* one. The nano is very close to being small enough to fit it in your wallet.

Like many people, I keep my entire music library on my iPod, so I won't be switching to a nano as my primary iPod in the foreseeable future. But I'm excited about the nano (although I'm not as thrilled about the silly name) because it's a great bridge between the iPod shuffle and the full-size iPod. Now people who want a tiny, shock-proof iPod can get one with a screen. I can't wait to get mine.

The Future of the iPod

Meanwhile, with the introduction of Motorola's iTunes-equipped Rokr cell phone, Apple is poised to become a major player in the cell-phone market. While many of us prefer to keep our iPods and our phones separate, some people will welcome the chance to reduce the number of digital devices they have to carry around. The Rokr is primitive by iPod standards, but it's just a start. With any luck, Apple is already working on the next generation of iTunes-embedded phones, devices that will blur the line between iPod and phone even more.

With the introduction of the iPod nano and the Rokr, the future of the iPod product line is becoming clearer. As flash-memory technology improves, large, hard-drive–driven iPods will fall by the wayside—at least as far as music is concerned. But I don't think the full-size iPods will wither and die. Instead, they will move on to the next frontier of portable media: video, a format with large data files that will require a hard drive for a long time. And there's still an opportunity for full-size iPods to add networking, which could add lots of cool features.

And that, I think, is one of my favorite things about Apple's latest announcements: Just when we—and Apple's competitors—thought we knew where the company was headed, Jobs and Company surprised us with the nano. Once again, anything seems possible. Apple-branded iPhone? Video iPod? Stay tuned. □

Are you going to buy an iPod nano or a Rokr phone? Has the iPod revolution left you behind? Share your thoughts about this topic or anything else at macworld.com/forums, or e-mail me at jason_snell@macworld.com.

PORTRAIT BY PETER BELANGER

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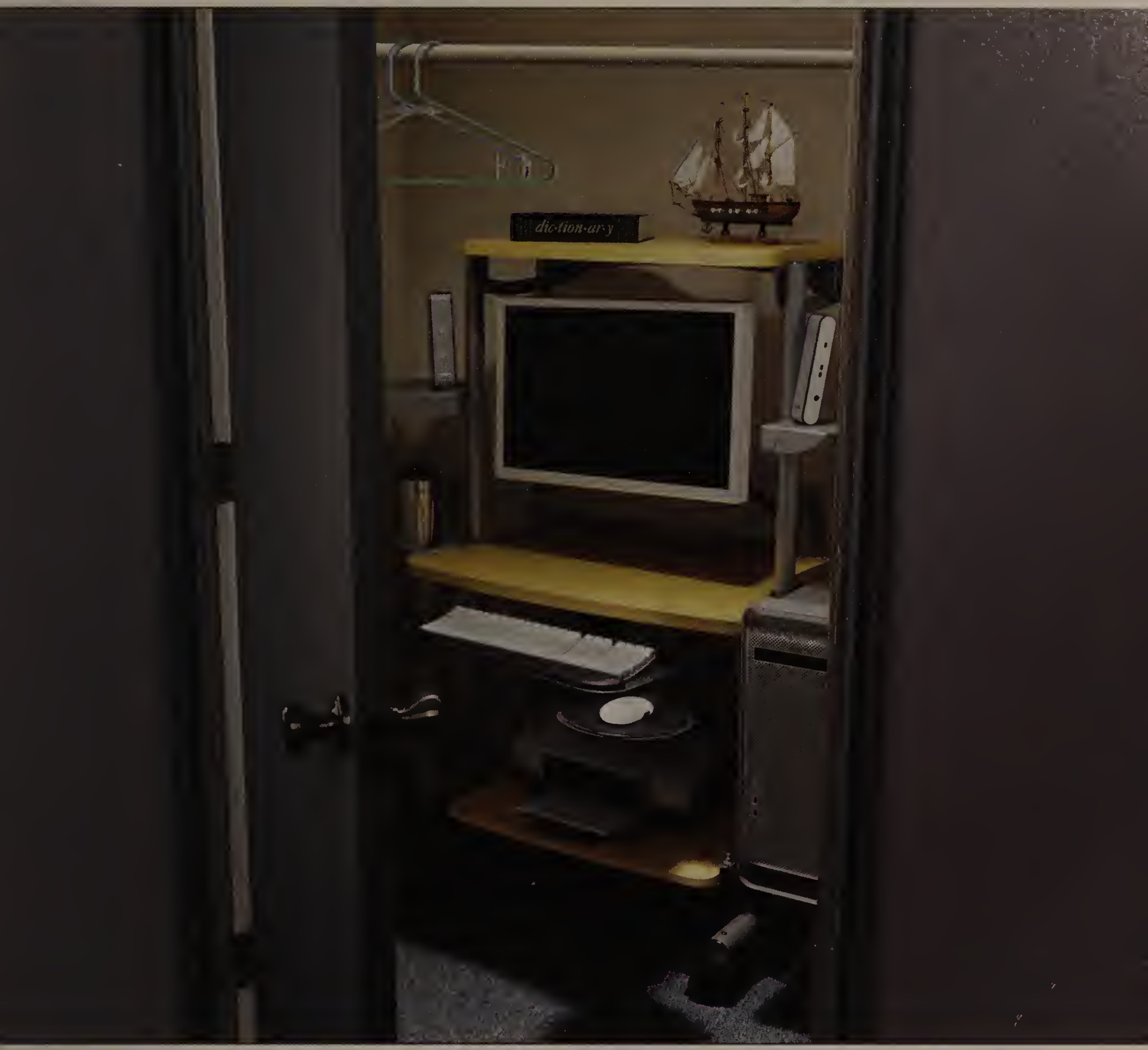
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FEEDBACK

New Soul of a Machine

Some might say the bit of silicon that powers your Mac is just a chip. But if reactions to our August issue's *Mac Beat* special report are any indication, Apple's decision to switch to Intel CPUs means much more to many Mac loyalists. Beyond the technical merits of one chip versus another, there's something deeper going on here, something about the identity of the Mac itself. Will the Mac become just another computer, like all those anonymous Wintel boxes? Maybe—unless, of course, a chip really is just a chip.

The Big Switch

MATTHEW FRIES

Thank you for your issue about Apple's switch to the Intel processor (*Mac Beat*, August 2005). You did a great job (as always) of explaining exactly what it all means. My big question as a Mac user and fan is this: Will we now have to hear that annoying Intel music theme at the end of every Apple TV ad?

MICHAEL RICHARDS

As someone who still owns his first 512K Mac, complete with its "insanely great" designers' signatures imprinted inside its plastic hull, I think I speak for many when I say that I feel betrayed. If I had wanted an IBM PC, I would have crossed over years ago. Now, as I look at my 23-inch Apple Cinema Display hooked up to my Power Mac G5, I feel that I've been sold out. I've stood by this company through the IIe, the IIc, and even the Lisa, but for what? What will be special now? Why did I bother? Other computers were much less expensive.

BRAD MARSTON

Your readers would have been better served if you'd checked the reaction to the Intel announcement among developers on Apple's own Scitech mailing list. For example, you could have observed that Apple—having previously promoted the 64-bit capabilities of the G5 processor—has said nothing about the future of 64-bit computing with Intel. (Xcode 2.1 supports only 32-bit i386 instructions.) You might also have asked about floating-point performance. The G5 processor has two floating-point units; how do Intel chips stack up? Finally, you might have been able to tell your readers that the x86 instruction set is widely viewed as inelegant and dated in comparison to the PowerPC architecture. The transition to Intel may be the correct business choice for Apple, but it raises many technical questions, which *Macworld*'s coverage so far has not answered.

JIM LOFTON

As a Mac owner since 1989, I'm amazed that some people are so upset about the switch to Intel. Clearly, they have drunk too long and too deep from the Apple (and IBM) marketing well. For all the highly touted benefits of PowerPC chips, they only briefly eclipsed the Pentium. And even that advantage was debatable, as the benchmarks Apple used were biased. Yes, the standard Pentium 4 is a dog. But the Pentium M is far superior to the G4 and may even match well against the G5 (if it were put into a dual-configuration desktop). The Pentium D is a dual-core chip available in production quantities now. And future Pentium releases such as Yonah will likely make the G6 (if it ever appears) look merely adequate, as the G5s do now when compared with Intel's Xeons. Even if the complainers are right and the PowerPC is superior to the Pentium on technical merits, that was pretty much the argument for Betamax—with the result being that everyone now lives with VHS and couldn't care less.

BILL HERMAN

Your Intel story missed one very scary issue: trusted computing (TC). Just before Jobs made the big announcement, Intel quietly announced that it would begin producing chips that implement TC. If you don't know about TC yet, you need to learn about it *now*. One good way to do so is to go to the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Web site (www.eff.org) and do a search for *trusted computing*. If, as part of the switch to Intel, Apple implements TC in such a way that users lose control of their computers, our collective digital freedom will be in serious danger.

WALTER JEFFRIES

I have read that when Apple switches to Intel processors, it will no longer support Mac OS 9 Classic applications and that those apps won't run under Rosetta. Like many companies, mine has gigabytes of data and tens of megabytes of legacy applications that require the Classic operating environment. Just because Apple has a new OS and new hardware coming out doesn't mean that businesses or individuals can abandon decades' worth of data and applications. These tools and data are vital to our lives and our businesses. Many of these applications were written by developers who are no longer in business. Given a choice between fancy new hardware and software upgrades and losing our data, we'll stick with the older machines. If Apple abandons these applications, we won't replace these older machines with newer ones—which means that Apple will sell less hardware and fewer software updates to the operating system, and will lose money as a result. I strongly urge Apple to continue to support Classic applications.

Finish Your Photos

PAUL LOMAURO

Wow! Your digital photo how-to guide is just what I've been looking for ("The Big Picture," August 2005). I'm one of millions of new digital camera users and a relatively new owner of an iMac. For many of your readers, the 17-page guide will be too basic—but for me, it was perfect. Keep this up, and I'll never let my subscription lapse.

COVER PHOTO BY PETER BELANGER

ROB WILSON

I read your excellent article on photo-printing services and noticed that you left out one service that I believe is the absolute best deal of all: having your prints done at Costco. You can simply e-mail the digital photos you want printed to the nearest Costco store and then pick up your prints an hour later. Costco does a great job of accurately reproducing what you send, offers glossy and luster finishes, and is very, very inexpensive.

Cross Current

REID CONRAD (CEO, NEAR-TIME)

In response to your online review of Near-Time Current 1.5 (2½; macworld.com/0711), I would like to clarify a couple of points. For starters, your reviewer states, "I was unable to post entries to a blog created at Blogger.com . . . but I succeeded in posting the same blog easily at Typespot.com." These problems could relate to a number of factors, yet you attributed them solely to Current. Your reviewer further noted, "It froze my PowerBook G4 several times, leaving even the Force Quit command unavailable." We have found no record in our customer-service logs of other customers complaining of such freezes. We pride ourselves on our customer service. Your reviewer also states that Current's "functionality and ease of use falls far short of the applications I normally would use to do these things: Ranchero Software's NetNewsWire Lite, Apple's Safari, Microsoft Word, and, for archiving pages, Mozilla's Firefox Scrapbook extension." Recommending the use of four separate applications instead of one speaks to Current's potential. I invite the *Macworld* community to try Current and contact me directly with feedback (reidconrad@near-time.com).

Before we published our review of Current, we did, of course, contact Near-Time about the problems we had with the application. Our reviewer spent two hours in a face-to-face meeting with a Near-Time representative, trying to resolve these problems. We stand behind his review.—Ed.

Nearsighted Spotlight

ADAM KOBRIN

In Apple's ads for its Tiger OS, one reviewer says that Spotlight "looks through absolutely everything." This is clearly not true, according to Apple's own documentation. The only way to perform a comprehensive search is to resort to a techie workaround (*Geek Factor*, August 2005). Besides dealing with its misleading advertising, does Apple plan to address this serious limitation? All I'd like to do is find *every file* I'm looking for—just as I could in OS 9, System 7, and System 6.

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Apple's iPod Nano

iPod Mini's Replacement Is Big on Wow Factor

There's a new iPod in town, and its name is nano—iPod nano, to be precise. At a special music event in September, Steve Jobs introduced the nano as the replacement for Apple's enormously popular iPod mini. The new portable music player comes in 2GB ($199) and 4GB ($249) versions (both ★★★★½; macworld.com/0817) and is available in either black or white. (See "Old and New" for a comparison of the iPod mini and the nano.)

As its name implies, the nano is small—really, really small. It weighs just an ounce and a half and is about as thick as a stack of six credit cards. Apple achieves such miniaturization primarily by using flash-based memory, rather than a hard drive (which you'd find in a full-size iPod or an iPod mini), to store your music, photos, and other data.

Despite its small exterior, the nano has a crisp color display and—like current full-size iPods and the iPod mini—a Click Wheel. While the wheel has been shrunk, it's clearly marked and very responsive. The screen looks great—it's bright and readable. The nano also feels perkier than other iPods, scrolling very quickly through a window full of songs, moving rapidly from one screen to the next, and flying through pictures.

Unlike other iPods, the nano has its headphone port on its bottom, next to the dock connector. The Hold switch remains, all alone, on the top. The nano also has the same 30-pin dock connector as the iPod and the iPod mini, making it compatible with more than 1,000 accessories designed for the iPod, including Apple's own sync cable. The nano ships with a USB 2.0 cable (the only kind that will both charge and sync this model—a FireWire cable will only charge it), Apple's standard earbuds, two sets of foam covers for the earbuds, and an iPod Dock Adapter—a white plastic insert that allows you to plug the iPod nano into a standard iPod dock.

In our first tests, the nano took around seven minutes to sync approximately 900 songs—about as quick as other Click Wheel iPods. Syncing music didn't slow down even when iTunes was optimizing photos for the nano—the two processes can occur at the same time. As with other iPods that have limited storage, if your music collection exceeds the nano's capacity, iTunes will offer to create a selection of music for

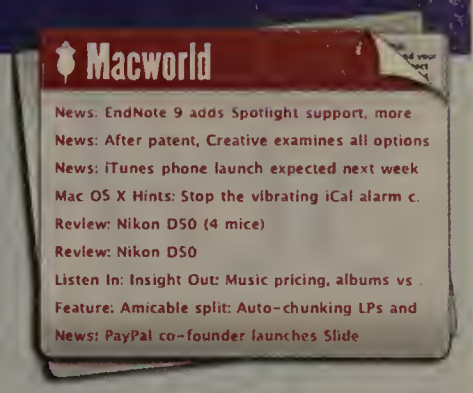
OLD AND NEW

	iPOD MINI	iPOD NANO
Capacity	4GB, 6GB	2GB, 4GB
Price	$199, $249	$199, $249
Color	blue, silver, green, pink	white, black
Storage	hard drive	flash memory
Display	1.67-inch monochrome	1.50-inch color
Battery Life	18 hours	14 hours
Dimensions (in inches)	3.6 (h) × 2.0 (w) × 0.5 (d)	3.5 (h) × 1.6 (w) × 0.27 (d)
Weight	3.6 ounces	1.5 ounces

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER

MACWORLD WIDGET

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you. And as with other iPods, this playlist-creation feature isn't terribly discerning—in one initial test, it placed all of the Griffin iTrip's five-second configuration tones on the nano.

The latest iPod also includes some features not found on any other. The first is the Stopwatch, which can track total time and lap time, as well as summary statistics such as longest laps, shortest laps, and average lap time. The nano also includes a new clock, which shows the current time in an analog and digital display. Unlike previous clocks, it lets you view multiple clocks with individual alarms and sleep timers, and clocks change from light to dark depending on the time of day.

Another new software feature is Screen Lock, which lets you lock your iPod's screen. Like a cheap bike lock, Screen Lock lets you create a four-digit numeric password. The interface features a round combination wheel beneath four spaces for digits. When the screen is locked, you can only pause and play the iPod—you can't even adjust the volume because turning the wheel adjusts the currently selected digit. Even when you reset the iPod, it boots back into the Screen Lock screen.



Less Is More?

While the nano is undeniably cool, some buyers may wonder why they should pay $50 more for the 4GB nano than they paid for the 4GB mini, or why the 2GB nano costs the same as that 4GB mini. If price per gigabyte is your only concern, that could be a valid complaint. Yet people made similar rumblings about the iPod mini, which cost only $50 less than the 20GB full-size iPod. Although that didn't appear to be a good bargain in a strict gigabyte-per-dollar sense, the mini still became Apple's most popular iPod model to date.

Buyers might also kvetch about that color screen: Compared with images on the full-size iPod's screen, pictures and album art on the nano's screen are *tiny*. Also, unlike previous photo-capable iPods, the nano can't display pictures on a television; nor can it use Apple's iPod Camera Connector or Belkin's Media Reader (which means that you can't upload pictures to it unless you do so from your Mac).

Still, with its svelte size and skip-proof storage—and that elegant Apple design—it's an impressive replacement for the monochrome iPod mini.

"To kill the mini is a really bold step for Apple," says Michael Gartenberg, an analyst for the market-research firm Jupiter Research. "Other companies would have increased the capacity or added a choice of colors. But with their great designers, Apple was able to bring out a completely new, cool product."

Competition in the MP3-player market is increasingly fierce, but Apple continues to outpace all comers. With a 74 percent share of this market—as well as a download rate of 1.8 million songs per day from the iTunes Music Store, and an 82 percent market share of legal music downloads in the United States—Apple is clearly the market leader. But as Apple's director of iPod Product Marketing, Stan Ng, says, "We can't stand still. People have had their sights on the iPod mini for the holiday buying season and we just changed everything. We continue to innovate; our tagline says it all—Impossibly Small."

And for people who may be disappointed that Apple's newest iPod lacks certain capabilities, Jupiter's Gartenberg adds, "These announcements show the naysayers who believe Apple should release a video iPod that there is still a lot of life left in music."

(For advice on which iPod will be best for you, see "Picking the Right iPod" [*Playlist*, page 70].) □

Playlistmag.com Editor in Chief CHRISTOPHER BREEN, Macworld.com Senior News Editor PETER COHEN, Macworld.com News Editor JIM DALRYMPLE, and *Macworld* Senior News Editor JONATHAN SEFF contributed to this story.

PHOTOGRAPH OF iPOD NANO COURTESY OF APPLE

MOTOROLA'S NEW ROKR PLAYS YOUR TUNES

iTunes Cell Phone

If you're in the market for a new cell phone—and you've just *got* to have your music with you at all times—Apple, Motorola, and Cingular Wireless have just the thing for you: the Motorola Rokr E1, the first cell phone equipped with a version of Apple's iTunes software. The phone lets you transfer tracks—songs, Podcasts, or audiobook files—from iTunes 5 to the phone, using a USB cable. Steve Jobs described the Rokr as "an iPod shuffle on your phone," which is fitting because both devices store about the same number of songs and can take advantage of iTunes' Autofill feature.

The phone includes a removable 512MB TransFlash memory card (located under the battery in the back of the phone). This card can hold 100 tracks, but the number of songs it holds isn't dependent strictly on the size of the chip (although it obviously can't contain more than 512MB of data). Rather, the 100-track limitation is part of a digital rights management (DRM) scheme that prevents the phone from playing more than 100 tracks.

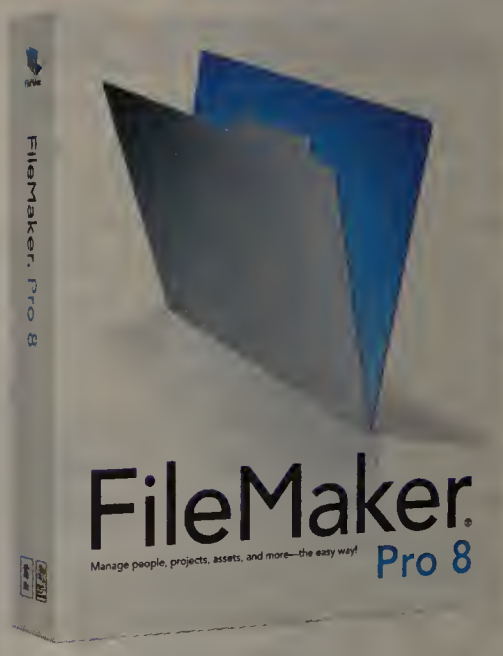
iTunes knows how many tracks are autho-



continues on page 16

SUPERCHARGE your business

New FileMaker Pro 8 ushers in the next era of productivity for small businesses.



SMALL BUSINESSES HAVE A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE OVER BIGGER COMPANIES: They can be more nimble when responding to business changes.

For example, rather than paying sky-high city rents, small businesses can set up shop in outlying areas and hire great local talent. They can trim costs further by hiring excellent people willing to work at home.

Of course, the small business needs superior technology to support remote workers and other business-critical functions. Lacking the IT staffs of bigger companies, small firms need technology that is easy to deploy and even easier for users to put to work. And like the big guys, small businesses need security to protect vital information and essential customer data.

For millions of users at tens of thousands of small companies worldwide, FileMaker Pro from FileMaker (www.filemaker.com) has proven itself to be a "Swiss army knife," with starter solutions for instant productivity and the power to customize and grow as the business grows.

Now FileMaker has once again elevated the bar of excellence with its most innovative database software ever, FileMaker Pro 8. Small business owners and employees can work measurably faster and more productively while sharing information with others more easily than ever imagined.

Top ways new FileMaker Pro 8 can help supercharge your small business:

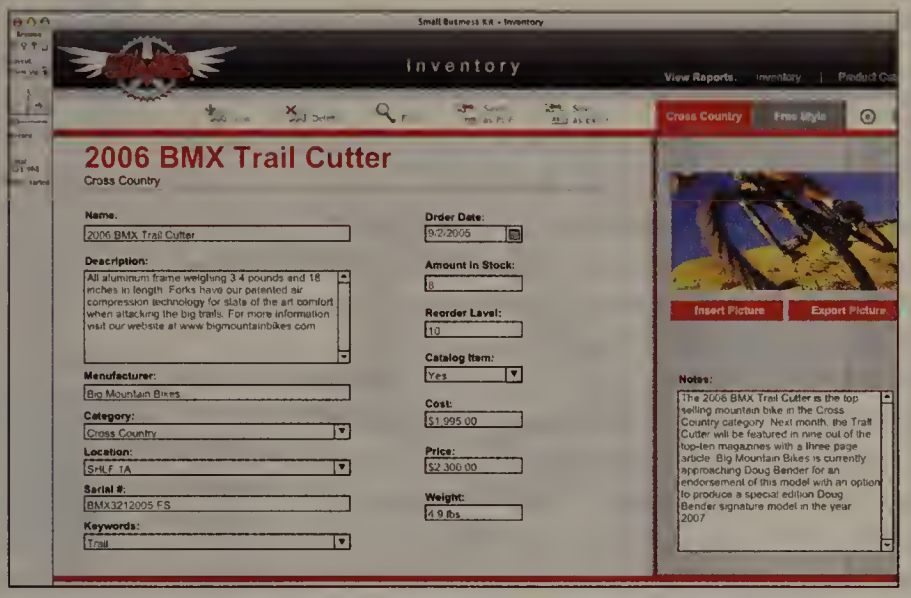
1. Process sales orders and print invoices with a click, then use FileMaker Pro 8's new *PDF Maker* to instantly save them as PDF files to send to customers or suppliers.
2. Produce sales and inventory reports in multiple, easy-to-read formats, and use the new *Excel Maker* to instantly convert the reports into Excel files to share with your accountant.
3. Get immediate access to contact details, including names, numbers, email addresses, recent orders, and related contacts instantly with FileMaker Pro 8's new *Fast Match* feature that lets you scour your data quickly, without any typing.
4. Build a mailing list of customers and prospects and seamlessly perform email merges to send personalized messages or newsletters to as many customers as you like with FileMaker Pro 8's new built-in *Email Merge* feature, or easily print out mailing labels and personalized letters.
5. Store product details, complete with part numbers and pictures, and link the information to your sales order database to eliminate duplicate data entry.
6. Produce a catalog of your products and publish it to the Web in just a few clicks.
7. Keep projects and assigned tasks on track.
8. Manage and build your business more efficiently than ever before!

FULFILLING THE SMALL BUSINESS WISH LIST

The core value proposition of FileMaker Pro 8 is like a small business wish list for simplifying myriad routine office tasks, increasing efficiency, and improving customer service.

FileMaker Pro 8 is a small business "efficiency engine" offering many ways to streamline business processes. For example, small businesses can keep stock of inventory and automatically track orders and manage order processing. Or, FileMaker Pro 8 can be used as an easy project management solution to keep track of tasks, production schedules, and time spent on development. Customer service will get an immediate boost with FileMaker Pro 8's ability to efficiently manage customer contacts, orders, invoices, and project status. FileMaker Pro 8 also makes it easy to create and share a product catalog, order information, or an online knowledge base with customers via the Web.

And the legendary user-friendliness of FileMaker Pro software really shines when it simplifies office tasks in the small business. Included in this do-it-yourself kit for small businesses are



FileMaker Pro 8 lets you store your product details, such as part number, inventory, and pictures, and link the information to your sales order database, eliminating duplicate data entry.

ready-to-use solutions for managing contacts, organizing products and inventories, producing invoices and processing sales orders, sending targeted customer mailings, managing events and employee time sheets, and producing automatic notifications and warnings when inventories rise or fall beyond user-prescribed limits.

The accolades for FileMaker Pro 8 have poured in from a wide variety of small businesses and organizations that got an early look at the latest version of the most-awarded desktop database software.

"With FileMaker Pro 8, one no longer needs to be an expert to do a bunch of really neat things that used to require loads of programming, but are now built-in and take just a couple of clicks," says Chris Manton of London-based BabelFix Limited.

Adds Arthur Evans of the AWE Consultancy based in London, "With the release of FileMaker Pro 8, the company has shown it has really listened to what small business owners have been asking for."

EXPANDING EXISTING BUSINESS INVESTMENTS

With support for both Apple Macintosh and Microsoft Windows operating systems, and easy integration with Microsoft Office and other software applications, FileMaker Pro 8 extends the technology investments small businesses have already made. FileMaker data can be shared over the Web, and new features allow FileMaker data to be instantly saved in Adobe PDF and Microsoft Excel formats. As a result, information can be shared easily with people outside the immediate workgroup, such as customers, suppliers, and partners.

"The PDF Maker in particular is a great innovation," beams Russell Wilkinson of Alastair Sawday Publishing. "It will transform the way we do some of our work and save us lots and lots of paper."

FileMaker Pro 8 contains a wealth of features that small businesses desire, such as the ability to store and manage an almost limitless volume of data—in just about any format, including PDFs, photos, spreadsheets, documents, video, and many others. Small businesses can also use the new Email Merge feature in FileMaker Pro 8 to send targeted email to their customers to alert them to specials or to dispatch monthly newsletters on the latest offerings. With a single click businesses can publish information such as inventory, catalogs, progress statements, and so on, to coworkers, vendors, and clients over the Web. And advanced security features keep information safe from prying eyes. These features include the use of account names and passwords as well as the simple and easy assignment of custom privileges.

IN STEP WITH SMALL BUSINESSES

"FileMaker Pro is basically the lifeline of our company," says Joe Scott, president of IntelliSound of Ashville, N.C., maker of custom-designed on-hold programming. "Every single conversation we have with our clients goes into the database, all their contact information, all their schedules for when they need to receive updates, and when they need to receive programs—everything is in our FileMaker Pro database. FileMaker Pro allows a small number of people to keep up with a huge client base. It keeps things extremely organized and makes everybody's life easier."

In other words, what makes FileMaker Pro 8 so appealing is that it has been designed from the bottom-up to help small businesses work faster and share more, enabling them to meet today's most pressing issues and challenges head-on with success.

Try before you buy

If FileMaker Pro 8 sounds too good to be true, try it out for yourself at no obligation with FileMaker's 30-day free trial offer available at www.filemakertrial.com/sb. With the free trial download users can also get the new Business Productivity Kit, fully equipped with a powerful set of pre-designed and ready-to-use solutions for the following tasks and more:

- ✔ Managing contacts and companies
- ✔ Organizing products and inventories
- ✔ Processing sales orders
- ✔ Tracking projects and production
- ✔ Sending targeted mailings
- ✔ Producing invoices and reports

Download these six essential solutions for small businesses today to become more organized, more productive, and more successful.





iTunes Phone
continued from page 13

rized for playback on the phone, so even if your 100 tracks use only 350MB of the card's capacity, you can't add more. Similarly, although you can swap in a new card that contains new tracks, those tracks won't play until they've been approved by iTunes.

The Rokr features a color display that can be used to view album art while songs are playing. It also has built-in stereo speakers, and it comes with stereo headphones that also work as a mobile headset (with a microphone). If you're listening to music and a call comes in, the Rokr automatically pauses. You can also listen to songs when you're using the Rokr's other features, such as text messaging or taking photos.

Apple followers have been predicting (perhaps overly optimistically) an "iPhone" from the company for several years now—and it's important to point out that this is not it. The Rokr is clearly a Motorola design, and it fits in nicely with other phones in the company's lineup. It does contain Apple software and sport an iTunes button, but it lacks Apple's characteristic elegance. Still, it's the only phone that can play songs purchased from the iTunes Music Store and that has iTunes built in. Aside from the music capabilities, the Rokr is a full-featured phone with Bluetooth connectivity, a camera, a speakerphone, and tri-band operation.

The Rokr costs $250 with a two-year commitment to Cingular Wireless, the exclusive carrier.—CHRISTOPHER BREEN AND PETER COHEN



New and Improved: iTunes 5

Although a new phone and new iPods are Apple's big news lately, the company hasn't forgotten about its free digital music software, which helps power these multimedia devices. Along with its other announcements, Apple introduced a major new version of iTunes with a refined user interface and new features.

The new Search bar lets you search more efficiently through your library, as well as the iTunes Music Store's library of two million songs, 15,000 Podcasts, and 10,000 audiobooks. It lets you narrow your search to music, audiobooks, Podcasts, videos, or booklets, as well as search by artist, album, or name.

You can now create folders to organize your playlists in, and a new Smart Shuffle feature lets users change the randomness of shuffled songs—that is, how likely iTunes is to pick songs from the same artist or album consecutively.

New parental controls mean that parents can disable access to Podcasts, shared music, or the iTunes Music Store as a whole. And parents who let their kids buy music through the Music Store can now restrict the sale of music with explicit lyrics. The Music Store also now includes more than 1,000 album reviews.—PETER COHEN AND JONATHAN SEFF

HARDWARE BEAT

2×1 DVI KVM Switcher, from Gefen (www.gefen.com): Switch connects two computers—Mac or PC—to one keyboard, mouse, and display, with support for DVI-equipped computers ($199).

Epson Stylus CX5800F, from Epson (www.epson.com): All-in-one printer outputs 20 black-and-white and 19 color pages per minute, and performs 1,200-by-2,400-dpi document scans in 480-bit mode ($179).

MachSpeed G4 Pismo, from Daystar Technology (www.daystartechnology.com): CPU-upgrade card for replacing a PowerBook G3 motherboard with a G4-class processor clocked at 550MHz and equipped with a 250MHz cache is now available in a do-it-yourself installation kit ($399).

Pixma MP500 Photo All-In-One, from Canon (www.usa.canon.com): Printer with 9,600-by-2,400-dpi resolution features built-in two-sided printing, memory card slots, PictBridge support, and a second paper tray ($200).

Pixma MP800 Photo All-In-One, from Canon (www.usa.canon.com): Printer offers duplex printing and can scan 35mm slides at up to 1,920-by-1,920-dpi resolution ($300).

Selphy DS810 Compact Photo Printer, from Canon (www.usa.canon.com): Printer with 4,800-by-1,200-dpi resolution can print a 4-by-6-inch photo in 63 seconds ($150).

V20 Notebook Speakers, from Logitech (www.logitech.com): Portable USB-powered speakers use separate two- and three-inch drivers and feature their own controls for playback and volume control ($80).

INTERNET BEAT

ConceptDraw WebWave, from Computer Systems Odessa (www.conceptdraw.com): Cross-platform diagramming application, which runs on OS X 10.2 and later, lets users plan a Web site's design and structure ($299).

Microsoft Messenger 5.0 for Mac, from Microsoft (www.microsoft.com/mac): Instant-messaging client is an upgrade to MSN Messenger, adding tabbed browsing and the ability to access corporate and personal Messenger accounts at the same time (free).

OpenWeb 3.0, from OpenOSX (www.openosx.com): Collection of tools for OS X 10.3 and later lets Webmasters configure Web-server software and applications on Mac hardware ($60).

Unison 1.6.3, from Panic (www.panic.com): Usenet news reader adds regular-expression matching, IPv6 support, improved keyboard navigation, and better attachment handling ($24; upgrade, free).



Now Tiger compatible...

The complete Macintosh problem solving utility.



Diagnostics and Repair

TechTool® Pro includes options to thoroughly check various hardware components, drives, and other aspects of your computer system. One of the most important tests is the S.M.A.R.T. test, which checks for impending drive failure.



Optimization

This feature defragments the files on your hard drive and consolidates all the free space into one large block. Optimizing enhances the overall performance of your hard drives and simplifies file layout on the disk.



Data Recovery

TechTool Pro includes routines that can search a damaged drive and attempt to recover valid files to another location. Hence, even if a drive is damaged beyond repair, you may still be able to save important data that had not been backed up.



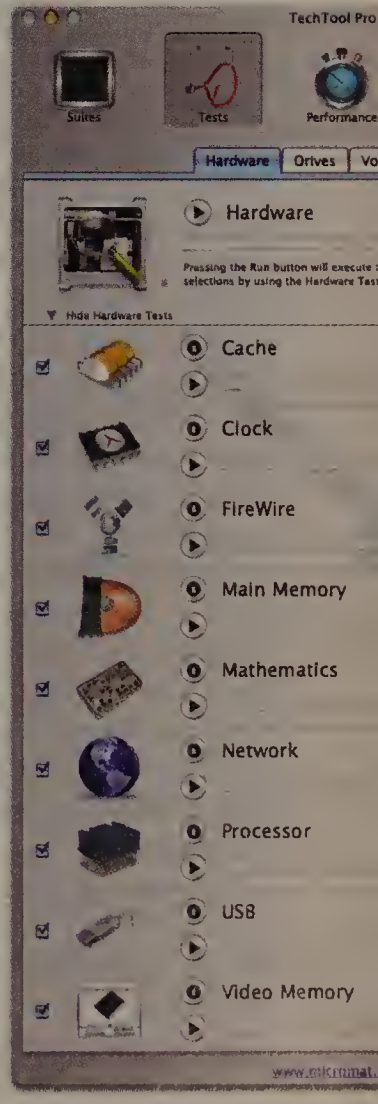
Safety

The Safety feature can be configured to protect your drives by automatically creating backups of critical drive directory data. It can also test the computer for developing problems and alert you, both onscreen and via email, if problems are detected.



eDrive

One of the most innovative features of TechTool Pro is the eDrive. This is a bootable Mac OS X partition containing TechTool Pro and a small copy of your system that you can use in an emergency. It is created on one of your hard drives without the need to reformat.





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IS THE iPOD IN TROUBLE?

Apple's Patent Woes

Apple and Microsoft have a long history together. Microsoft was there with Word 1.0 when Apple launched the Macintosh in 1984; Bill Gates's face appeared on screen at the 1997 Macworld Expo as the two companies announced a technology alliance; and parts of Windows have looked rather similar to Mac OS. But in August 2005, the companies found themselves at the heart of a patent dispute that could have a far-reaching impact on Apple's iPod business. A month earlier, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office denied Apple a patent for user-interface elements of the popular iPod MP3 player, citing a patent submitted by Microsoft developer John Platt five months before Apple made its claim.

Apple isn't giving up, however, and says that it plans to continue the fight.

"The U.S. patent process is often a lengthy one, involving much back and forth with the U.S. patent office," said Apple in a statement. "Apple will continue to pursue this patent application, as well as the many others covering iPod innovations."

Longtime industry analyst Roger Kay says that even if Microsoft were to win a patent challenge from Apple, the chances of its having any significant effect on Apple's future business are slim.

"In practical terms, no judge will allow Microsoft to stop Apple's iPod business from going forward," says Kay, the president of the market-research firm Endpoint Technologies Associates. "If Microsoft makes a narrow claim stick, the settlement will be a cross-licensing deal with little or no money changing hands."

In a statement, David Kaefer, Microsoft's director of Intellectual Property Licensing, noted the two companies' close relationship and the fact that Microsoft does tend to license its patents to other companies: "In general, our policy is to allow others to license our patents so they can use our innovative methods in their products. Microsoft and Apple have previously licensed their respective patent portfolios to one another, and we maintain a good working relationship with Apple."

Legal Wranglings

The potential licensing agreements and the outcome of the patent decision may look like a complex scenario, but the reality of the legal proceedings between the two companies could be even worse.

"U.S. patent law is a 'first to invent system.' Microsoft could argue that it invented [parts of the iPod technology] before Apple put its product on the market," says Scott Culpepper, a patent lawyer and partner with Atlanta's Thomas, Kayden, Horstemeyer & Risley.

Since the patent office has already denied its patent application, Apple has two options: to apply for patent interference or to use a "swear behind" procedure.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office will grant an interference when two parties claim to have invented the same technology; Culpepper characterizes this as "an extremely long process that is very complicated and expensive." If Apple were to win the interference proceeding, the patent office would revoke Microsoft's patent and issue the patent to Apple.

A company can use the "swear behind" procedure when it believes that its patent claim has nothing to do with an earlier granted patent. For instance, Apple could argue that Microsoft's patent does not cover Apple's technology. If the patent office agreed, it would issue Apple a patent for its technology while Microsoft would keep its separate patent.

According to Culpepper, the general rule for a patent is that the party who invented the idea first and then diligently worked toward building the product will receive the patent. However, if a company invented a technology and put it away for a few years without actually creating or patenting a product, and a second company invented a similar technology and created a product, the second company would get the patent.

Creative Joins the Fray

Complicating matters further, Creative Technology (makers of the Zen and Nomad MP3 players) has also been issued a patent covering the hierarchical display of music information in music-player interfaces. Creative says these design elements are found not only on its devices but also on Apple's iPod and iPod nano.

Creative wouldn't say what its plans were concerning Apple, or whether it would sue or demand a licensing fee, but Craig McHugh, the president of U.S. subsidiary Creative Labs, says, "We continue to explore all the alternatives available to us, but our primary focus is on new products and continuing innovation."

"No judge will allow Microsoft to stop Apple's iPod business."

It's not surprising that companies such as Creative and Microsoft are going after Apple from a patent angle, especially considering Apple's dominant position in the MP3-player market. Creative's CEO, Sim Wong Hoo, declared a marketing "war" against the iPod in 2004, and Apple's player still leads the market.—JIM DALRYMPLE

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER



The Xerox Phaser® 7750 network printer gives you color so vivid, you're naturally drawn to it. And at 35 color ppm, it's sure to make your heart flutter.

Xerox Color. It makes business sense.

The color is truly stunning, and the speed simply breathtaking. That sums up the Xerox Phaser 7750 tabloid color laser printer. It not only prints 35 ppm in black and white, it prints just as fast in color. And it can dcliver up to an incredible 1200 dpi. Its single-pass laser technology prints up to 11x17 full bleed. Color is Pantone-approved, too, for accurate proofing. What's more, Phaser Match™ 3.0 color management software ensures the colors you want are the colors you get. For more about our full line of Xerox network printers, digital copiers and multi-function systems, just call us or visit our website today. We'll be happy to provide you with the stunning details.



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USED iBOOKS CAUSE A COMMOTION

One Man's Trash



If you needed even more proof of the fanaticism of Mac users, look no further than the public reaction to a recent hardware giveaway.

You may have heard about the efforts of the Henrico County, Virginia, school district to get rid of some aging iBooks: Back in 2001, the school district inked a deal with Apple to supply its students with Apple laptops. This year, when the district opted to dump Apple iBooks in favor of computers from Dell, officials took some of the four-year-old iBooks and offered them to local residents for $50.

The result was a mob scene at the local race track where the machines were to be sold off; residents showed up hours before the gates opened. When the sale finally began, there was a stampede as people jockeyed for a place in line. Punches and lawn furniture were thrown, and people were hurt as they were trampled upon by others. One person even drove into the crowd with a car.

We all know the sort of fierce loyalty Apple engenders in some people—and, well, $50 for an Apple laptop that's still usable is a steal. But the director of general services for Henrico County mused to reporters after the fact that it was strange that people were so eager to get their hands on laptop computers that had already seen four years of hard use and abuse at the hands of schoolkids—"computers with less-than-desirable attributes" is how he described them.

Four years from now, perhaps Henrico County residents will feel that way about the machines that replaced those iBooks, and there won't be another stampede.—PETER COHEN

ROXIO LAUNCHES TOAST 7

Feel the Burn

Many of OS X's features offer basic functionality but lack advanced abilities. Apple likes to refer to such situations as "third-party opportunities," and one product that fills a gap left by Apple is Roxio's Toast. At the end of August, Roxio (www.roxio.com) released Toast 7 Titanium, the latest version of its $100 CD- and DVD-burning software for the Mac.

The new version adds an iLife Browser that lets you drag and drop content from your iLife applications—iTunes songs and playlists, iPhoto photos and albums, and iMovie projects, for example—directly into Toast. Toast 7 Titanium even integrates with Elgato's EyeTV video-recording software, so you can also drag and drop television shows you've recorded into Toast for burning.



Another key new feature is data spanning, which lets you back up and archive content that's too big to fit on a single CD or DVD. Each disc of the set includes a stand-alone Mac OS X application called Roxio Restore, which can restore data without needing the Toast application.

Enhanced audio-DVD support lets you choose from multiple menus and Dolby Digital encoding rates, and Toast 7 now includes support for Ogg Vorbis and Free Lossless Audio Codec (FLAC) audio formats.

With this release, Roxio has rolled its $50 Popcorn software into Toast 7 Titanium, which can compress the contents of an unencrypted dual-layer DVD to fit on a standard 4.7GB DVD. Toast also now supports DivX, the popular MPEG-4–based compression technology. Users can burn DivX video to a standard DVD, or encode and burn DVDs in standard or HD DivX format.—PETER COHEN

IMAGING BEAT

Axis 207, from Axis Communications (www.axis.com): MPEG-4 network camera designed for surveillance is about the size of a deck of cards and operates independently of a computer with its own built-in Web server ($349).

DSC-T5, from Sony (www.sonystyle.com): 5.1-megapixel digital camera features a 3× optical zoom, a 2.5-inch LCD screen, and improved battery life over previous T-series cameras ($350).

Easyshare P850, from Eastman Kodak (www.kodak.com): 5.1-megapixel camera comes with a 36mm–432mm f2.8–3.7 lens ($499).

Image Tricks, from BeLight Software (www.belightsoft.com): OS X 10.4.2–compatible image editor exposes special effects that can be applied to images using Tiger's Core Image filters (free).

PowerShot A610 and **A620**, from Canon (www.usa.canon.com): Digital cameras feature 4× optical zooms with resolutions of 5.0 and 7.1 megapixels, respectively (A610, $300; A620, $400).

PowerShot SD450 Digital Elph and **SD550 Digital Elph**, from Canon (www.usa.canon.com): Digital cameras include 3× optical zooms with resolutions of 5.0 and 7.1 megapixels, respectively (SD450, $400; SD550, $500).

STORAGE BEAT

8× Internal SuperDrive Upgrade, from MCE Technologies (www.mcetech.com): Upgrade for slot-loading optical drives in white iBook G3s and iBook G4s also features dual-layer support ($199).

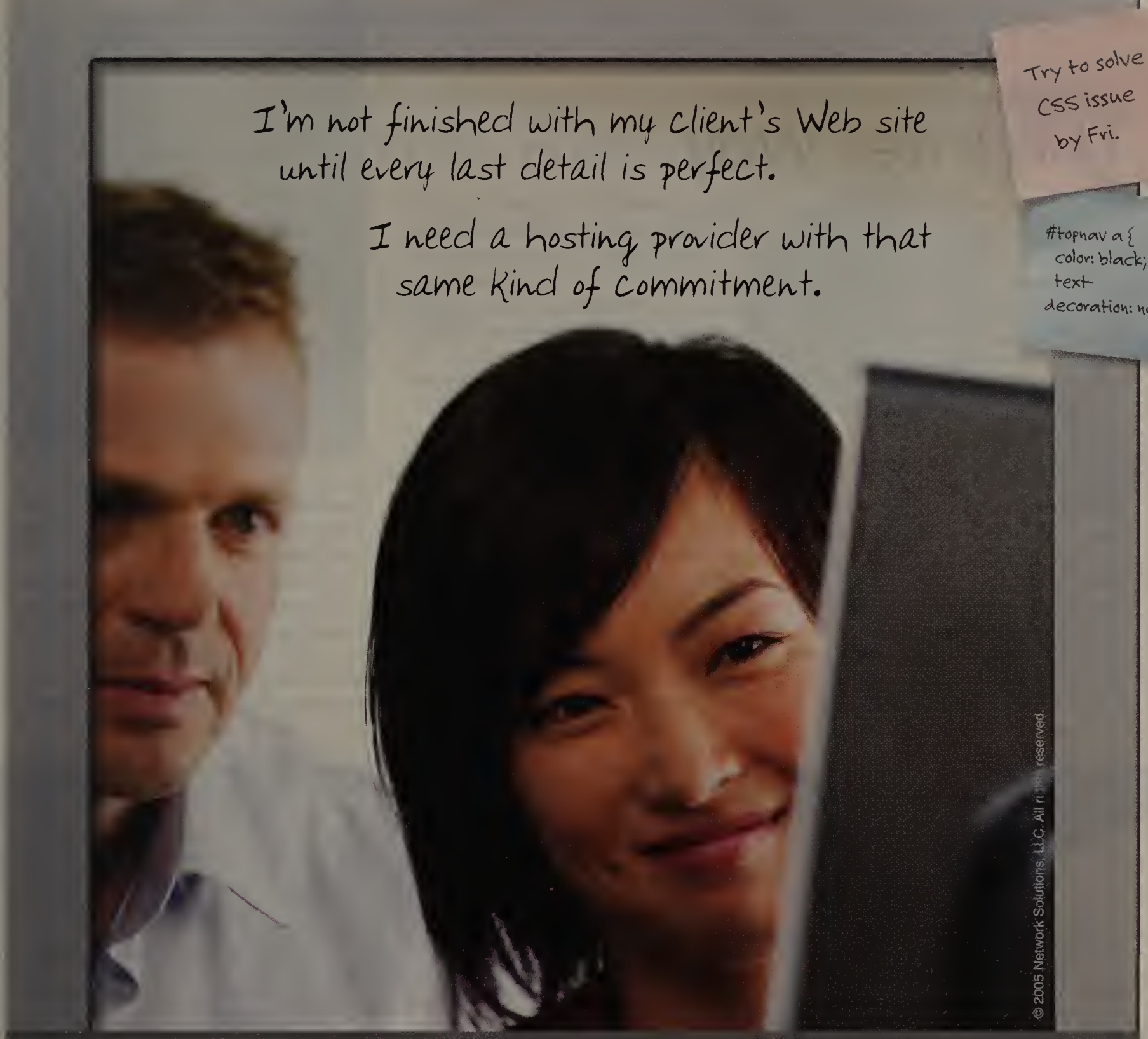
ChronoSync 3.1, from Econ Technologies (www.econtechnologies.com): Synchronization and backup software for OS X 10.2.8 and later adds file-archiving abilities for reviewing and restoring older files ($30; upgrade, free).

d2 hard drives, from LaCie (www.lacie.com): Fourth-generation line of external hard drives comes in capacities ranging from 160GB to 2TB and offers per-drive speeds of up to 88MB per second and per-bus speeds of 800Mb per second ($179 to $2,299, depending on capacity).

Disk Jockey Forensic Kit, from Diskology (www.diskology.com): New forensic kit for hard-disk–drive duplication system includes a "write blocking" feature that prevents data on one drive from being written to ($429).

NTI Shadow 2.0, from NewTech Infosystems (www.ntius.com): Cross-platform backup software features continuous, real-time backup and smart USB-device detection that automatically backs up content to a removable storage device when connected ($30).

PHOTOGRAPH BY DEAN HOFFMEYER/RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH



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CHIP COMPANY'S CEO SHOWS HIS HAND

The Intel Way

In late August 2005, I attended the Intel Developer Forum at San Francisco's Moscone West Convention Center—which is, coincidentally, where Apple holds its Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC). Although both conferences are venues where a big company can connect with and help the people who develop the hardware and software that make the company's products better, there was one big difference. Before the keynote by Intel CEO Paul Otellini, an announcement came over the PA system. It warned that future predictions are just that—*predictions*—and that such statements always involve risk and uncertainty.

Why was that such a big deal? Because Apple almost never talks about the future. It's a very secretive company—in fact, everything but the keynote at Apple's WWDC is off-limits to the press, and the contents of those sessions are protected by nondisclosure agreements. Apple typically announces products and partnerships only after they are signed, sealed, and ready to deliver (one exception: OS releases, which Apple likes to parade around like the giant cats whose names they bear).

Contrast Otellini's keynote to Apple's approach: the Intel CEO talked about new chips scheduled for release in the second and third quarters of 2006, while Apple won't even confirm that Steve Jobs likes to wear black.

Otellini showed off Merom, Conroe, and Woodcrest—new processors for mobile, desktop, and server computers, respectively. (Borrowing a page from Steve Jobs, Otellini revealed that he was running the presentation from a laptop with a Merom processor.) All three processors are dual-core, use 65-nanometer production technology, and are 64-bit—



Paul Otellini

which will be welcome news to people who feared that the switch to Intel's chip lineup meant sliding back to 32-bit computing on the Mac.

Intel will continue to share its roadmap, and Apple will continue to deny the existence of anything it hasn't announced—be it animal, vegetable, or mineral. If nothing else, Intel's candor could increase the odds of Mac rumor sites getting things right.—JONATHAN SEFF

PHOTOGRAPH BY GETTY IMAGES

THE CONQUEST

DiskWarrior is Now OS X Native

It's the indispensable utility that repairs problems such as disks that won't mount, files you can't trash, and folders that have disappeared. MacUser magazine said, "It's the fastest and safest data recovery utility you can buy."

Macworld magazine said, "DiskWarrior is by far the best disk utility available for the Mac; it can repair virtually any disk problem you may encounter...and it is likely to become the only tool you'll want to keep with you at all times."

David Coursey, ZDNet AnchorDesk, agrees in an article comparing disk utilities. He used it to fix a disk that no other utility could. "DiskWarrior is a great product, not just because it fixed a pretty serious screw-up, but because it showed me what it planned to do in minute detail before doing it."

But disk damage isn't the only threat to your data. As hard drives get older, the drive mechanisms

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ORIGINAL MP3 PLAYER DISCONTINUED; CREATIVE LOSES GROUND

Her Name Was Rio



Before the iPod or the iTunes Music Store, there was the Rio—the first handheld MP3 player to hit the market, in 1998. But in another demonstration of how popular Apple's music players have become, the makers of the Rio line announced in late August that they would stop selling the portable digital audio players by the end of September.

D&M Holdings (www.dm-holdings.com), the Tokyo-based company that owns the Rio brand, said in a financial report that the competition was intense, and that the "market was not a strong enough strategic fit with the company's core and profitable premium consumer electronics brands to warrant additional investment in the category."

Apple's players—which range from the $99, flash-memory–based iPod shuffle to the $399, 60GB color-screen iPod—dominate the market. During a recent conference call with financial analysts, Apple CFO Peter Oppenheimer cited a report, from the market-research company NPD Techworld, that indicates that Apple's share of the digital music-player market is more than 70 percent.

At the same time, Creative Technology, whose CEO declared a marketing war against the iPod last year, has seen its profits shrink considerably. The Singapore-based maker of digital audio players and PC audio components said that total sales in its financial reporting year ending June 30, 2005, had doubled to $1.2 billion, while net profit had crashed from $134.2 million in the previous year to $0.6 million.

Creative's average selling price was hit by fiercer-than-expected price competition in the market—the popular Zen Micro player's price fell by about $40 during the April–June quarter, for example. In a conference call with analysts, Craig McHugh, the president of Creative Labs (the U.S. subsidiary of Creative Technology), identified price cuts by market leader Apple Computer as the main reason that Creative had to lower its prices.

Slower-than-hoped-for sales of players also meant the company was left with more unsold products and components than it had anticipated. With prices of components falling, particularly those of flash memory and hard-disk drives, the company had to write off about $20 million in inventory.—PETER COHEN AND MARTYN WILLIAMS

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER

CONTINUES

begin to malfunction. Eventually, the malfunctions become so severe that the drive simply stops working. DiskWarrior can automatically test for hardware malfunctions, giving you the chance to back up your data before it's too late.

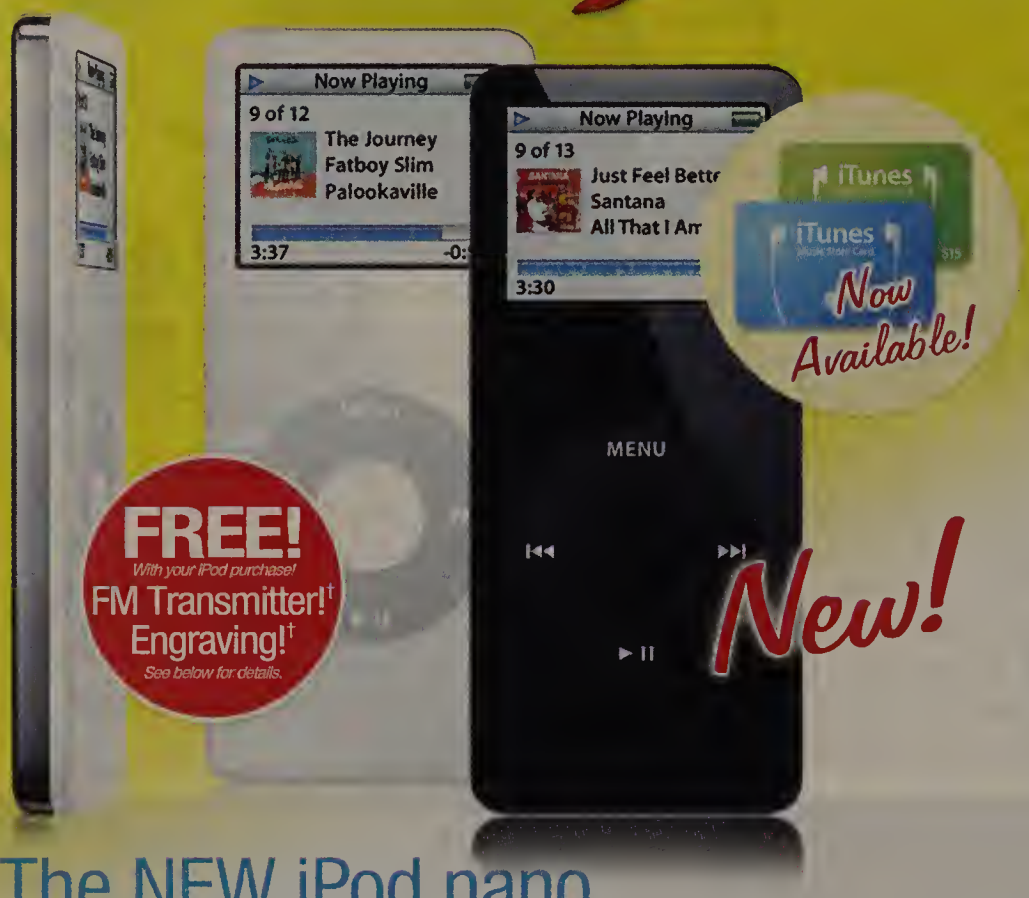
Be prepared. Don't wait until after you have a disk disaster to buy your copy of DiskWarrior. Bob LeVitus, aka Dr. Mac, said, "I feel naked without DiskWarrior." You can believe MacHome magazine when they said, "DiskWarrior is a quick, one-click solution to faster, more stable hard drives."



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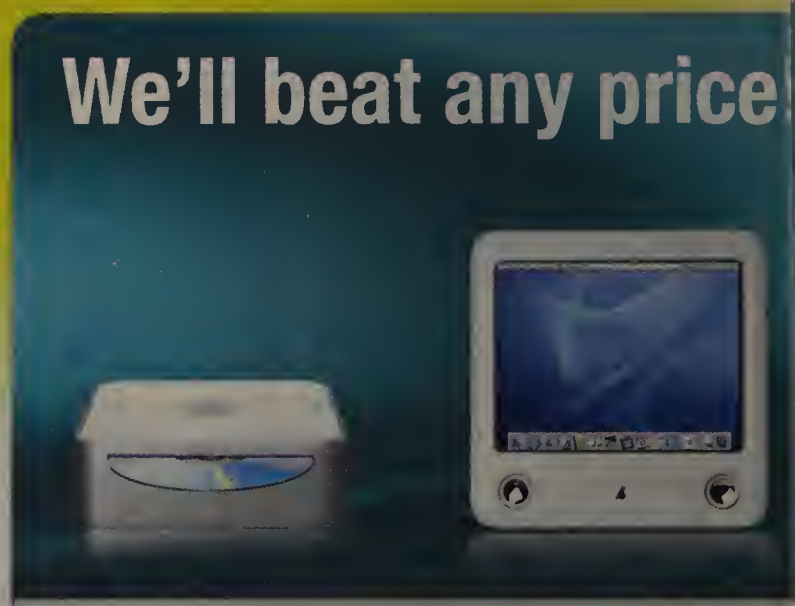
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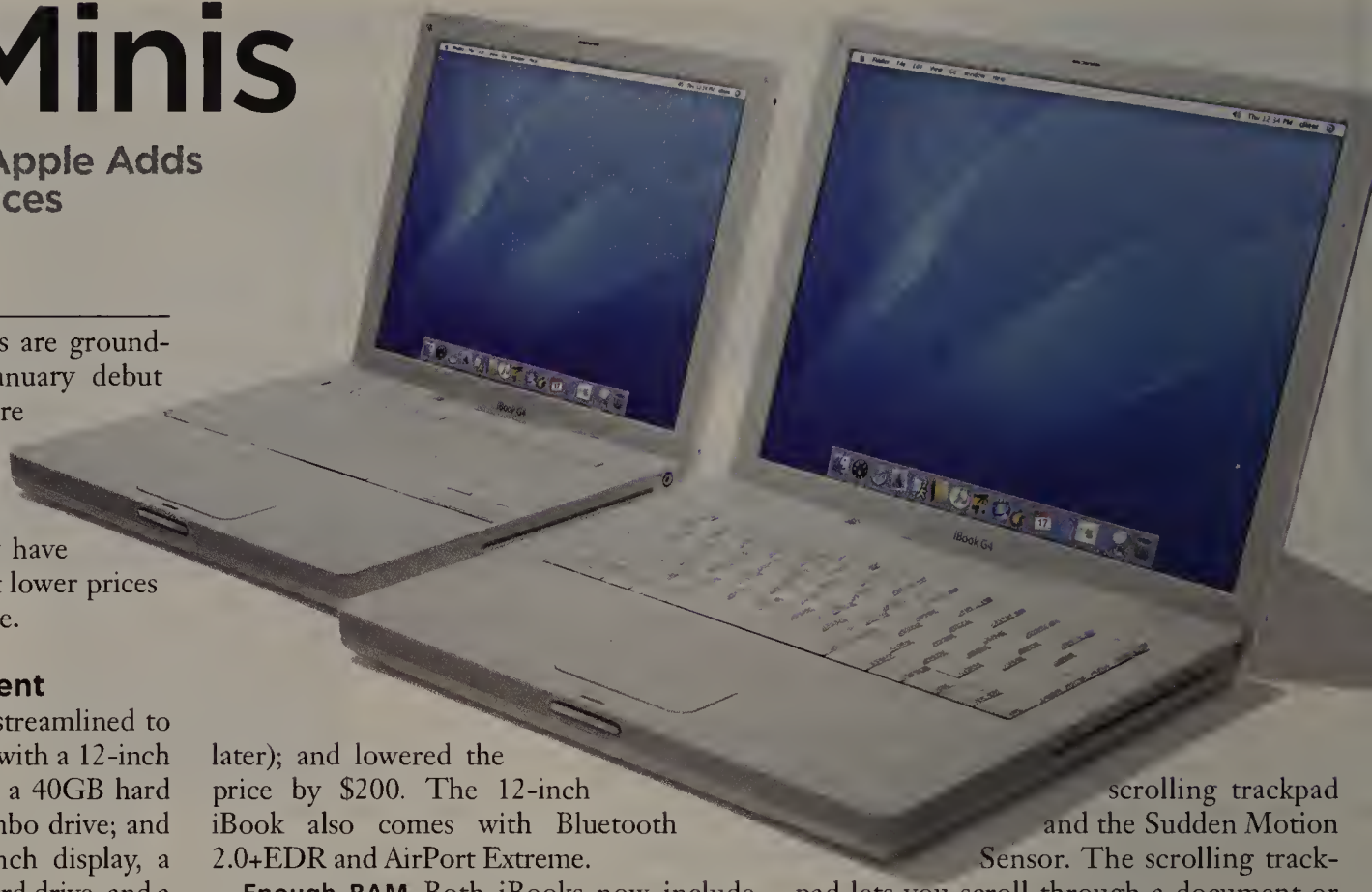
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VERY GOOD:
GOOD:
FLAWED:
UNACCEPTABLE:

iBook G4s and Mac Minis

Value Is the Key as Apple Adds Features, Lowers Prices

BY JENNIFER BERGER

Some Mac hardware offerings are groundbreaking—the Mac mini's January debut comes to mind—while others are just incremental. The latest revisions to the iBook G4 and Mac mini lines fall somewhere between these extremes; they have few new standard features, but lower prices significantly increase their value.



The PowerBook Treatment

The iBook G4 line has been streamlined to two models: a $999 computer with a 12-inch display, a 1.33GHz processor, a 40GB hard drive, and a CD-burning Combo drive; and a $1,299 model with a 14-inch display, a 1.42GHz processor, a 60GB hard drive, and a DVD-burning SuperDrive. To create the new top-of-the-line model, Apple basically gave the previous midrange model a 4× SuperDrive; doubled the memory; added built-in Bluetooth 2.0+EDR, AirPort Extreme, and two standard PowerBook features (discussed later); and lowered the price by $200. The 12-inch iBook also comes with Bluetooth 2.0+EDR and AirPort Extreme.

Enough RAM Both iBooks now include 512MB of memory, which seems to be the minimum practical amount for running OS X smoothly and reasonably quickly.

Newest Technologies Two features Apple introduced in the most recent PowerBooks are now included with the new iBooks: the scrolling trackpad and the Sudden Motion Sensor. The scrolling trackpad lets you scroll through a document or move around an image by swiping two adjacent fingers over the trackpad vertically or horizontally. This is a fantastic feature that makes the trackpad easier to use.

The Sudden Motion Sensor aims to change your iBook's relationship to gravity—

UPDATED iBOOK G4S AND MAC MINIS COMPARED

COMPANY	PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	CONTACT	PROS	CONS
Apple Computer	12-inch iBook G4/ 1.33GHz (Combo drive)	4	$999	www.apple.com	Very good value; adequate memory; trackpad scrolling; AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0+EDR now standard.	No DVD burner, not even as a build-to-order option; loud optical drive.
Apple Computer	14-inch iBook G4/ 1.42GHz (SuperDrive)	3	$1,299	www.apple.com	Decent value; adequate memory; trackpad scrolling; AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0+EDR now standard; SuperDrive.	On-screen text looks fuzzy; the screen's larger size is not a significant benefit.
Apple Computer	Mac mini G4/1.25GHz (Combo drive)	3½	$499	www.apple.com	Decent value; adequate memory; small and light; good video-out options; excellent design; fast enough for basic tasks.	No audio-in port; no DVD burner, not even as a build-to-order option.
Apple Computer	Mac mini G4/1.42GHz (Combo drive)	4	$599	www.apple.com	Good value; adequate memory; small and light; good video-out options; excellent design; fast enough for basic tasks; large hard drive; AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 1.0 now standard.	No audio-in port; modem not included (optional).
Apple Computer	Mac mini G4/1.42GHz (SuperDrive)	4½	$699	www.apple.com	Very good value; adequate memory; small and light; good video-out options; excellent design; fast enough for basic tasks; large hard drive; AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 1.0 now standard; SuperDrive.	No audio-in port; modem not included (optional).

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER BELANGER

REVIEWS YOU CAN TRUST Macworld rates only final shipping products, not prototypes. What we review is what you can actually buy.

that is, to save your data if you drop the laptop. If the sensor detects a sudden change in axis position (*x*, *y*, or *z*) or accelerated movement, it parks and locks the hard-drive heads to prevent damage. Under Apple's advisement, I tested this feature and found that the Sudden Motion Sensor worked as advertised.

Drives and Displays

The optical drive on the 12-inch iBook test model was loud and made an odd sound. The usual whirs and clicks were accompanied by brief grinding sounds. The drive's performance didn't seem to be affected, but the noises could cause concern. (Note that *Macworld* also bought a 14-inch iBook from a non-Apple retailer, and its SuperDrive was very loud and would not eject discs. It's not clear whether this is one bad unit or a symptom of a widespread problem.)

Overall, these iBooks' results in speed tests were predictable, with the 1.42GHz model winning handily. The Speedmark test shows that the new 1.33GHz iBook G4 is five percent faster than the previous 1.33GHz iBook G4. This is partially due to the new ATI Mobility Radeon 9550 graphics card, an upgrade from the ATI Mobility Radeon 9200 (though both have 32MB of dedicated video RAM).

The graphics card may be faster, but the 14-inch display doesn't look as sharp as the 12-inch display, not even at maximum resolution (1,024 by 468 pixels). Even though the 14-inch display is larger, it shows no more information than the 12-inch iBook's display because the resolution is the same on both; the pixels are simply farther apart in the 14-inch display, making text and icons appear larger. The larger display is beneficial only if you have difficulty seeing at close range, or if you prefer to work at some distance from the screen. (The PowerBook line is different: resolution increases with the display's size.)

If you want an iBook, know that you can't have it all. The 12-inch model is also four percent slower than the 1.42GHz 14-inch model, and it doesn't have a SuperDrive (a build-to-order option is not available).

	Speedmark 4	Adobe Photoshop CS2	Cinema 4D XL 9.1	iMovie HD	iTunes 4.9/ iTunes 4.7[A]	Unreal Tournament 2004
	OVERALL SCORE	SUITE	RENDER	RENDER	MP3 ENCODE	FRAME RATE
Apple iBook G4s						
12-inch iBook G4/1.33GHz	106	1:59	5:14	1:02	2:45	13
14-inch iBook G4/1.42GHz	**111**	**1:52**	4:59	1:04	**2:35**	**16**
14-inch iBook G4/1.33GHz	*101*	*1:58*	*5:17*	*1:08*	*2:44*	*11*
Apple Mac mini G4s						
Mac mini G4/1.25GHz	100	2:03	5:33	1:22	2:50	11
Mac mini G4/1.42GHz	115	1:47	4:54	1:01	2:33	12
eMac G4/1.42GHz (with SuperDrive and 160GB hard drive)	***142***	***1:46***	***4:53***	***0:44***	***2:30***	***20***
	>Better	<Better	<Better	<Better	<Better	>Better

BEST RESULTS IN **BOLD**. REFERENCE SYSTEMS IN *ITALICS*. [A] The MP3 Encode tests were done in iTunes 4.9 for the iBooks and in iTunes 4.7 for the Mac minis.

Speedmark 4 scores are relative to those of a 1.25GHz Mac mini, which is assigned a score of 100. Adobe Photoshop, Cinema 4D XL, iMovie, and iTunes scores are in minutes:seconds. All systems were running Mac OS X 10.4 and had 512MB of RAM, with processor performance set to Highest in the Energy Saver preference pane. We converted 45 minutes of AAC audio files to MP3 using iTunes' High Quality setting. We used Unreal Tournament 2004's Antalus Botmatch average-frames-per-second score; we tested at a resolution of 1,024 by 768 pixels at the Maximum setting. The Photoshop Suite test is a set of 14 scripted tasks using a 50MB file. Photoshop's memory was set to 70 percent and History was set to Minimum. For more information on Speedmark 4, visit macworld.com/speedmark.—MACWORLD LAB TESTING BY JAMES GALBRAITH AND JERRY JUNG

Mac Mini Adds Value

In revising the Mac mini line, the most significant change Apple made was adding a $699 model, which includes features that previously cost about $275 to order à la carte: a 4× SuperDrive, a built-in AirPort Extreme card, Bluetooth, and 512MB of RAM. It also no longer includes a 56-Kbps modem, which is now a $29 option—a sign of increased broadband-Internet use among Apple's customers. At a savings of $175 (assuming you don't care about the missing modem), this high-end Mac mini's value is nothing to sneeze at.

The other two models remain almost the same as before. The $599 model loses the modem and gains standard AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 1.0, and all models have 512MB of RAM—double the memory they had before—which I'm relieved to see. But the Mac mini line gets some of the old iBooks' leftovers, such as the older Radeon 9200 graphics card and Bluetooth 1.0. Despite its slightly aging hardware and the absence of an audio-in port and a built-in microphone, the Mac mini is still the best entry-level Mac.

Macworld's Buying Advice

In the iBook line, the 12-inch model is simply a better machine, mainly because of its nicer-looking display and greater portability; the downside, of course, is that it's slower and can't be outfitted with a SuperDrive.

But with the Mac minis, the right choice depends on what you want to do with your Mac. If you want an internal SuperDrive and some other niceties, the $699 model is the best value. Truthfully, however, the value of these machines is fairly even across the Mac mini product line.

(For more information, see our Apple Hardware Guide at macworld.com/0815.)





GO TO WEB:

As we went to press, Apple released the iPod nano. For more information on this tiny iPod, see this issue's *Mac Beat* coverage and *Playlist* column, and for a review of the iPod nano, go to macworld.com/0817.

Web Browsers

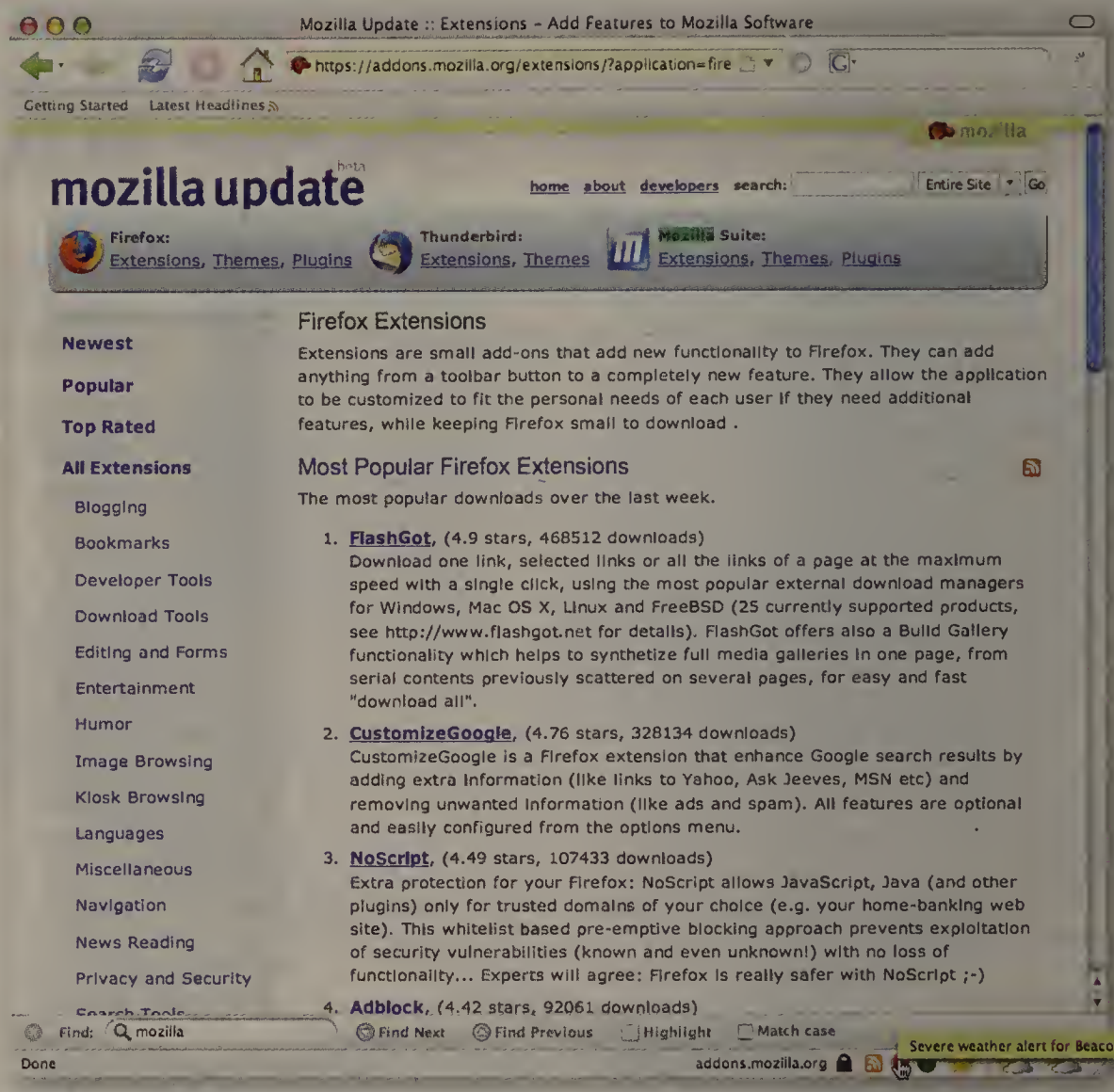
Mozilla's Firefox and The Omni Group's OmniWeb Help You Navigate Better

BY JEFFERY BATTERSBY

Conversations about Web browsers are like conversations about religion or politics: if you join one, you'll probably hear some strong opinions. But you might also hear questions like "You mean that thing I look at the Web with?"

Perhaps you use a certain browser simply because it came with your Mac, not because it provides you with the best Web-browsing experience. And your Web browser may not be doing all it can for you—in other words, it may not allow you to efficiently access all the Web has to offer.

This review highlights five browsers that have excellent reputations, have recently been updated, and are widely available: Apple's Safari 2.0, Mozilla's Camino 0.8.4 and Firefox 1.0.6, The Omni Group's OmniWeb 5.1.1, and Opera Software's Opera 8.0.2. Alexander Clauss's iCab isn't included here because its most recent update, version 3.0, is currently a beta. And Netscape's Navigator hasn't been updated since our last Web-browser review. Also, Microsoft's Internet Explorer isn't included here because its days are numbered—it's no longer being developed for the Mac. (See "Web Browsers Compared" for ratings of these previously reviewed products, and visit macworld.com/0765 for full reviews.)



Plug Me In, Soup Me Up Installing plug-ins in Firefox and Camino is as easy as downloading them from the Mozilla.org Web site. The plug-ins installed in Firefox are listed at the bottom of the browser window, on the right.

Must-Have Features

A Web browser is simply a vehicle that helps you get around the Web, and a good Web browser is one that's unobtrusive. All the browsers in this review have common features—ways to manage bookmarks, cookies, and security options; tabbed browsing; and autofill capabilities for Web-based forms. Each browser also loads Web pages at about the same speed. The only noticeable speed difference used to be Firefox's very long pro-

continues

WEB BROWSERS COMPARED

★ = Editors' Choice.

COMPANY	PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	CONTACT	PROS	CONS
Apple Computer	Safari 2.0	●●●●	free	www.apple.com	Integrated RSS reader.	May not be fully supported by all Web sites; integrated RSS reader may not satisfy hard-core news hounds.
The Mozilla Organization	Camino 0.8.4	●●●	free	www.mozilla.org	Compatible with a wide array of Web sites; extensible with plug-ins and extensions.	Lacks some standard features; has fewer available extensions than Firefox does.
The Mozilla Organization	Firefox 1.0.6 ★	●●●½	free	www.mozilla.org	Compatible with a wide array of Web sites; excellent Find feature; extensible with plug-ins and extensions.	None significant.
The Omni Group	OmniWeb 5.1.1	●●●●	$30	www.omnigroup.com	Excellent, unique browser features; thumbnail views of open pages.	May not be fully supported by some Web sites; tabbed browser not well suited to small displays.
Opera Software	Opera 8.0.2	●●●½	with advertisements, free; without ads, $39	www.opera.com	Highly configurable; useful keyword shortcuts for search sites.	Features don't justify price; some unusual interface quirks.
PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED						
Alexander Clauss	iCab 2.9.8	●●	free	www.icab.de	See macworld.com/0765 for a full review.	
America Online	Netscape 7.2	●●●	free	www.netscape.com	See macworld.com/0765 for a full review.	
Microsoft	Internet Explorer X 5.2.3	●●●	free	www.microsoft.com/mac	See macworld.com/0765 for a full review.	

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gram-launch time, which seems to be resolved in version 1.0.6.

While each of these programs implements standard features in a slightly different fashion, the principles tend to be the same across all five browsers, or at least similar enough that you'll quickly get used to the differences. (Only OmniWeb posed a bit of a problem—the program's default home-page setting was called Start Page and took us several minutes to locate.) These browsers differ most in the extra features they offer and in the ease with which they let you navigate the Web.

Firefox Extends the Experience

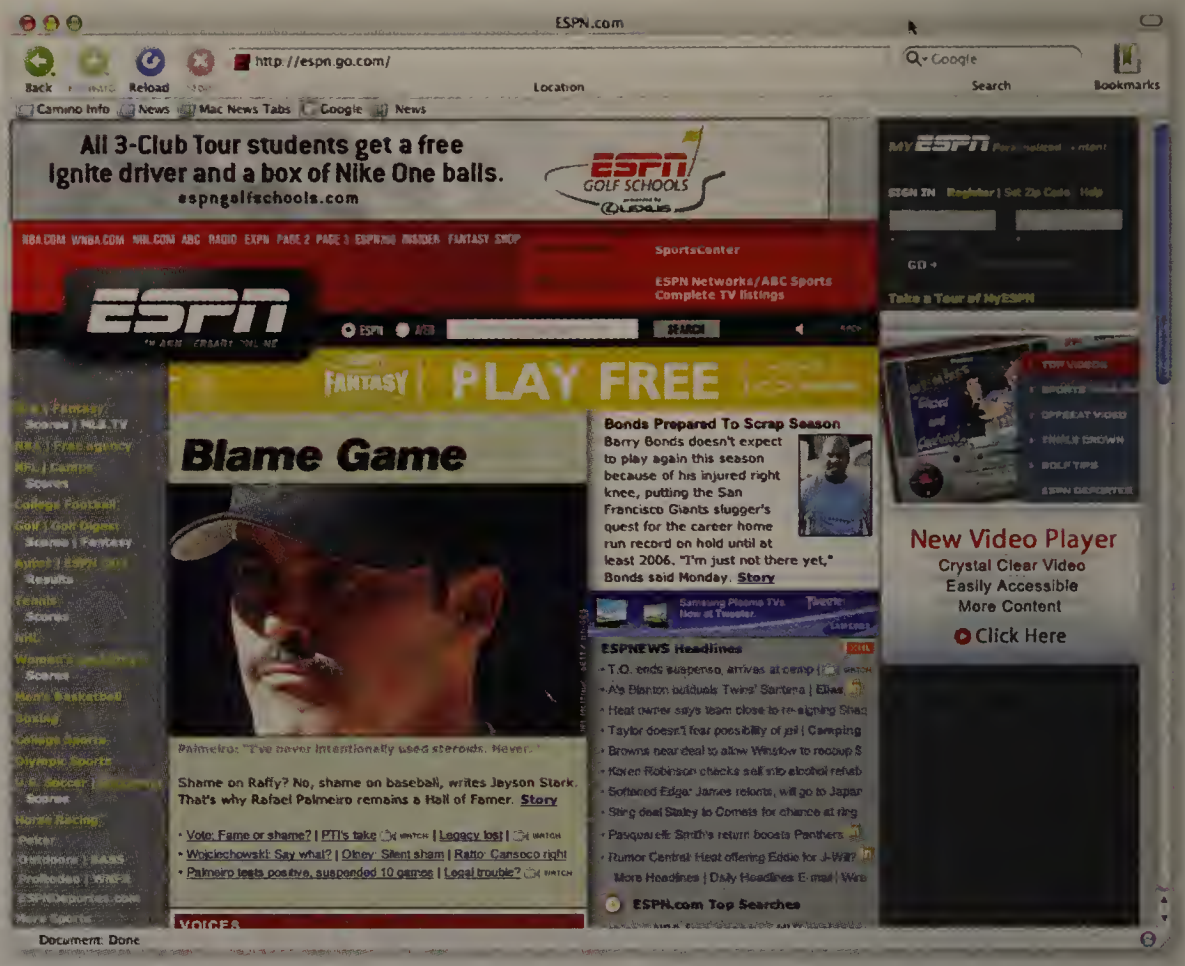
Mozilla's Firefox and Camino are the most versatile and extensible browsers in this review. They are based on the Mozilla engine, which is compatible with most Web sites. And they are designed to accept third-party plug-ins, or extensions, which can add features, functionality, and different looks (or skins) to the program. But there are many more plug-ins available for Firefox than for Camino.

In fact, these extensions are what make Firefox so great. For example, Forecastfox displays a weather forecast at the bottom of your browser window. And my personal favorite, FoxyTunes, lets you control iTunes. There are so many extensions for Firefox that you can have nearly as much fun tricking out the program as you can browsing the Web. (For more tips on extending Firefox, see "Spinning a Better Web," page 52.)

Firefox also includes several less obvious but equally cool tools. It has the best Find tool of the browsers in this review. While most browsers lay a Find window right on top of the Web page you're trying to search, Firefox simply brings up a little Find box at the bottom of the page. Then it highlights the results on the Web page; options for how your results are displayed are easily accessible. This feature is nothing short of brilliant.

And Firefox has a killer pop-up blocker that you can enhance with extensions such as Adblock, which also allows you to block other types of ads on Web sites. Unlike Safari, Firefox doesn't have a built-in RSS reader; instead, it includes Live Bookmarks, which monitor Web pages that have RSS feeds and then alert you when the sites are updated.

Aside from the fact that it's built on Mozilla's stellar foundation, Camino is a little immature. It lacks many features—such as text autofill (except for passwords) and RSS-feed recognition—that are standard in all the other browsers. You'll want to choose a different browser for day-to-day use.



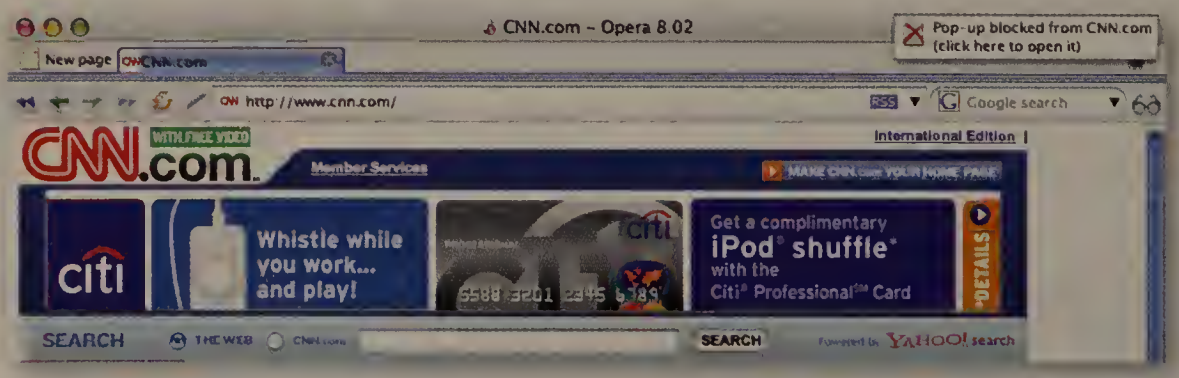
Austere but Able Camino lacks many of the features found in the other Web browsers, but it was able to handle complex sites such as ESPN.com.

All the News That's Fit to Read

Safari's most touted new feature is its built-in RSS news reader and aggregator. Many sites on the Web—such as Weblogs and news sites (including Apple.com and Macworld.com)—use RSS feeds to notify site visitors that the Web site has changed. You used to need specialized software to monitor and alert you to these changes (see our March 2005 review of RSS- and Atom-feed readers at macworld.com/0766). But now most Web browsers include some RSS-feed–monitoring capabilities.

Each browser, except Camino, monitors sites that have RSS feeds and alerts you when a site has been updated. Safari also lets you read all the latest headlines without having to leave the comfort of your browser. But Safari's news reader is a little awkward. Short of creating a folder for all your favorite news sites, there's no easy way to organize and view all your favorite feeds. So hard-core Weblog

continues



Pop on Top Opera displays little pop-up windows (top right) to tell you that it has blocked pop-up windows.

How We Tested

We selected ten different Web sites that represented what users might encounter in a typical day of browsing. We visited these sites to see whether the browsers met several criteria. We also ran a test of common JavaScript actions in each browser.

To assess overall user experience, we visited Web sites for the *New York Times* (www.nytimes.com), *Newsweek* (www.newsweek.com), and the *San Francisco Chronicle* (www.sfgate.com/chronicle), and a banking Web site called M&T Bank (www.mandtbank.com). We considered how consistently each browser displayed the pages, making sure that a site's functionality was the same across browsers.

To look at CSS implementation, we checked out the W3C-validated Vivabit (www.vivabit.co.uk) and CSS Zen Garden (www.csszengarden.com). For our discussion of XMLHTTPRequest, a technology that could be challenging for many browsers, we went to the sites discussed in "Ready for the Revolution."

We ran JavaScript Speed Test 4.0, from Andrew Hedges (macworld.com/0767), to determine not only how each browser handled the widespread JavaScript language, but also how fast each one completed common JavaScript actions. We also looked at various features on these sites, and used a Web-based Weblog-creation application called TypePad (see "What a Difference a Browser Makes").

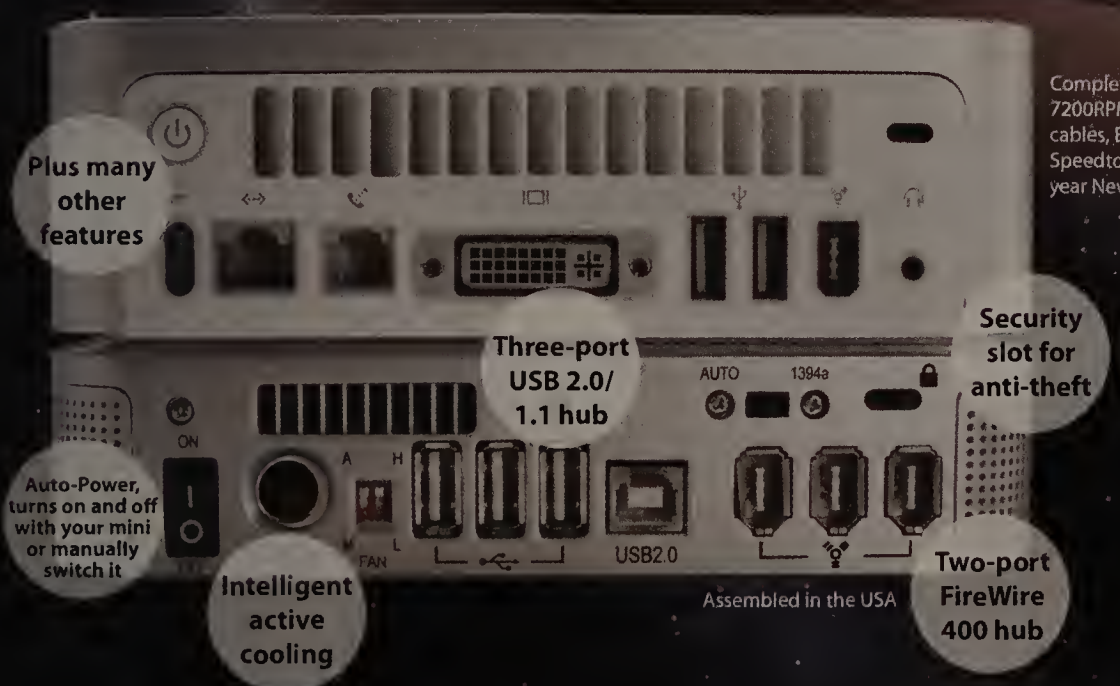
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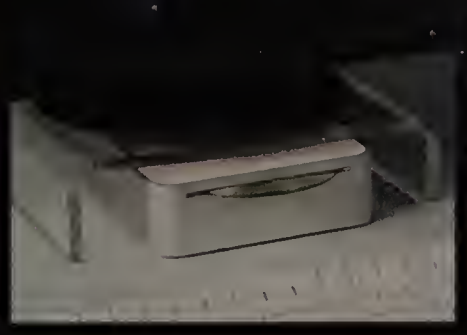
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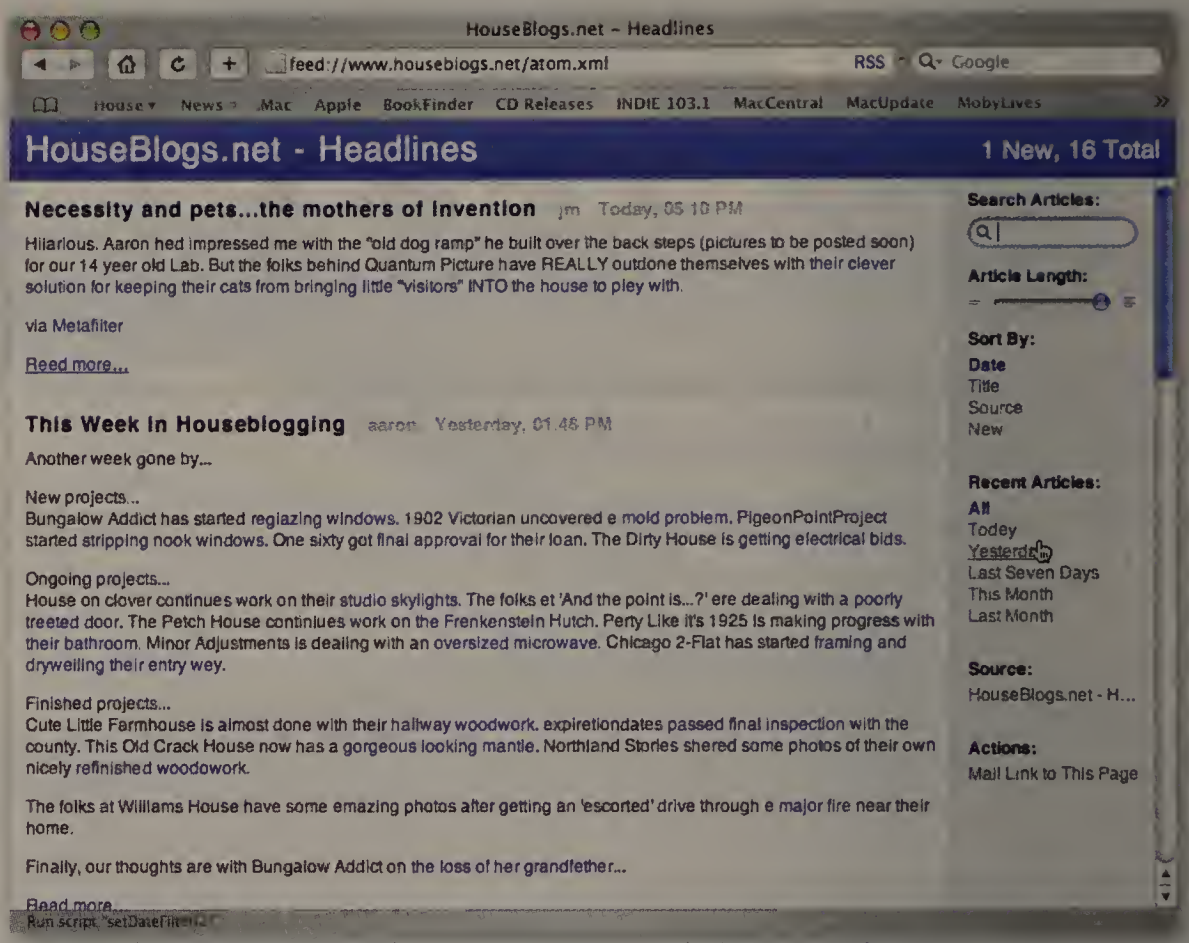
readers or news junkies who are used to using a dedicated program may not find Safari's RSS feature useful. But if you're new to the blog- and news-reading game, Safari is certainly a good place to start.

Safari also has a leg up on the competition if you have a .Mac account. Using iSync with .Mac, you can synchronize your bookmarks across several Macs.

What a Browser Costs

Opera is the only browser reviewed here that comes in both a free and a for-pay version ($39). (OmniWeb costs $30 up front and has no free version.) The free version of Opera sports little, slightly annoying advertisements at the top of the browser. When you pay for Opera, the only thing that changes is that the ad banner at the top of the application disappears; paying for Opera doesn't gain you any features that the other browsers don't provide.

Opera has several strange interface quirks that kept me guessing. For example, pressing ⌘-T brings up a new tabbed window in the other browsers, but in Opera the same key combination brings up a bookmark window. When you configure the program to block pop-up windows, it pops up its own little windows telling you when a pop-up has been blocked. Although you can turn off this preference, many such oddities that mar the browsing experience appear from time to time. On a positive note, Opera is highly configurable, even allowing you to create your own shortcuts for search sites. So typing `G` (the shortcut for Google) and `hogwash` in the address field will execute a Google search for *hogwash* and display your search results. That said, should you pay for a browser when many are available for free? When it comes to Opera, the answer is no.



Newsworthy Safari now includes the ability to aggregate and display RSS news feeds.

OmniWeb is our second-favorite browser of this bunch, providing a unique tabbed-window environment, as well as extensive options for customizing your browsing experience. Unlike the other four browsers, which place tabs at the top of the browser window, OmniWeb places a thumbnail image of each open window in a drawer on one side of the main browser window. The benefit of this thumbnail view is twofold: first, you can see each open Web page, which is a useful visual cue; second, OmniWeb constantly monitors the pages in the thumbnail view for changes,

continues

What a Difference a Browser Makes

Not all browsers let you take full advantage of every Web site. In fact, some Web sites hobble themselves if you're not using a certain browser. I learned this lesson while using Six Apart's Web-based application TypePad. TypePad lets you create and remotely host a Weblog without having to install any software on your computer, and it makes entering text, adding images and hyperlinks, and styling text easy. (For more on blogging applications, see "Spinning a Better Web," page 52.)

I first discovered a problem while I was using Safari to write a blog about a house I was building. At the time, Six Apart had announced some new TypePad features that I didn't seem to have access to. Six Apart's tech support prompted me to give the application a go in Netscape 7.0; sure enough, I suddenly had access to all of the site's features.

The reason? The site has been developed for use with Microsoft Internet Explorer and Mozilla-based browsers such as Camino, Netscape, and Firefox. Browsers such as Safari can probably handle the JavaScript that gives these pages their application-like features, but when you load the page, the site receives your browser information, sees that you're not using IE or a Mozilla-based browser, and won't load the JavaScript. In many cases, this has nothing to do with your browser's actual ability to fully load the Web site.

So if you find that some Web sites are missing features that you think they should have, try using a Mozilla-based browser such as Netscape or Firefox. That simple change may give you access to everything you need. Alternatively, some browsers, such as Opera, allow you to imitate another browser, effectively identifying your browser as either IE or Mozilla. You can also do this in Safari, with Gordon Byrnes's Safari Enhancer (free; macworld.com/0101), which gives you the option of enabling Safari's Debug menu. Via the Debug menu, you can select the browser you'd like to imitate.



Less Is More? Depending on which browser you use, you may not be getting all the features a Web site has to offer. For example, TypePad's formatting palette in Firefox (left) shows all available options. But in Opera, OmniWeb, and Safari (right, in descending order), various features are disabled.

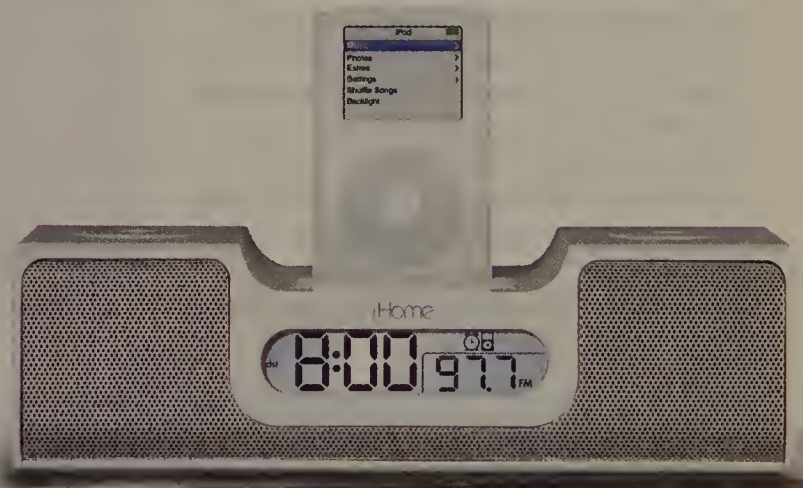
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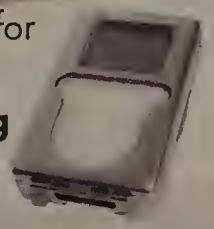
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and if a change occurs, a small green check mark appears next to the thumbnail image. This approach is handy, but having several tabs open at a time requires that you scroll up and down in the drawer to see every site. And even if you change the thumbnail tabs to text, the drawer itself takes up quite a bit of space.

OmniWeb also lets you create Workspaces, which are essentially collections of Web pages that you can open at the same time. Further, OmniWeb can save your current browsing state so all the windows open just as you had them when you closed the browser or shut down your computer.

The only problem with OmniWeb is that it may not be compatible with some Web sites because it's not based on the Mozilla or the Internet Explorer engine. This can be inconvenient (for more details, see "What a Difference a Browser Makes").

Dahling, You Look Mahvelous

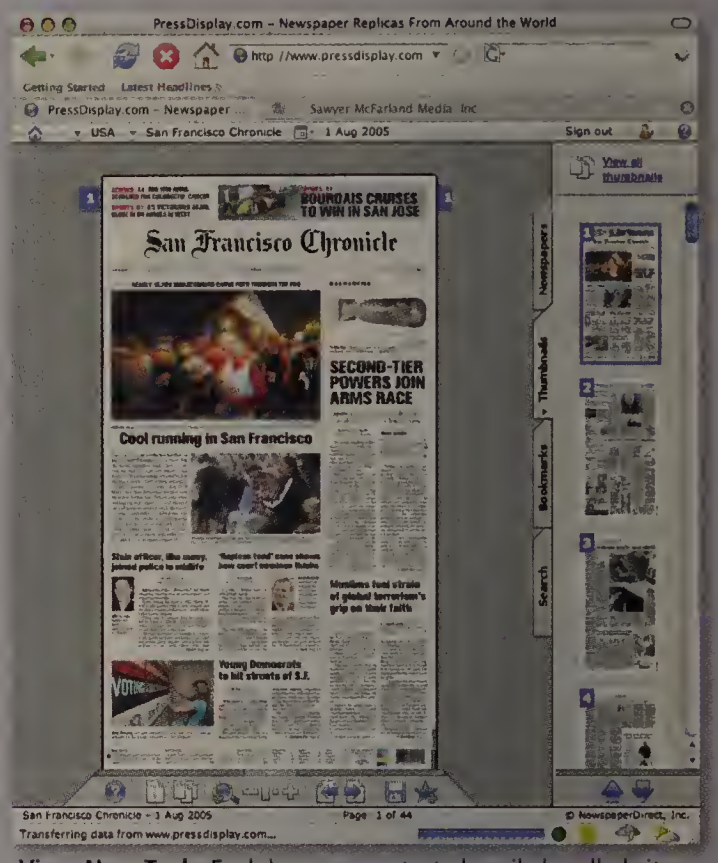
Over the past several years, Web pages have moved from simple HTML that displayed text with a few images to sites that can be as beautiful and elegant as high-end magazines, and that display better animated graphics than you can see in Times Square on a Saturday night.

To get that slick look, graphic artists and Web designers have come to rely on Cascading Style Sheets, or CSS. By using CSS, designers can be more creative with the

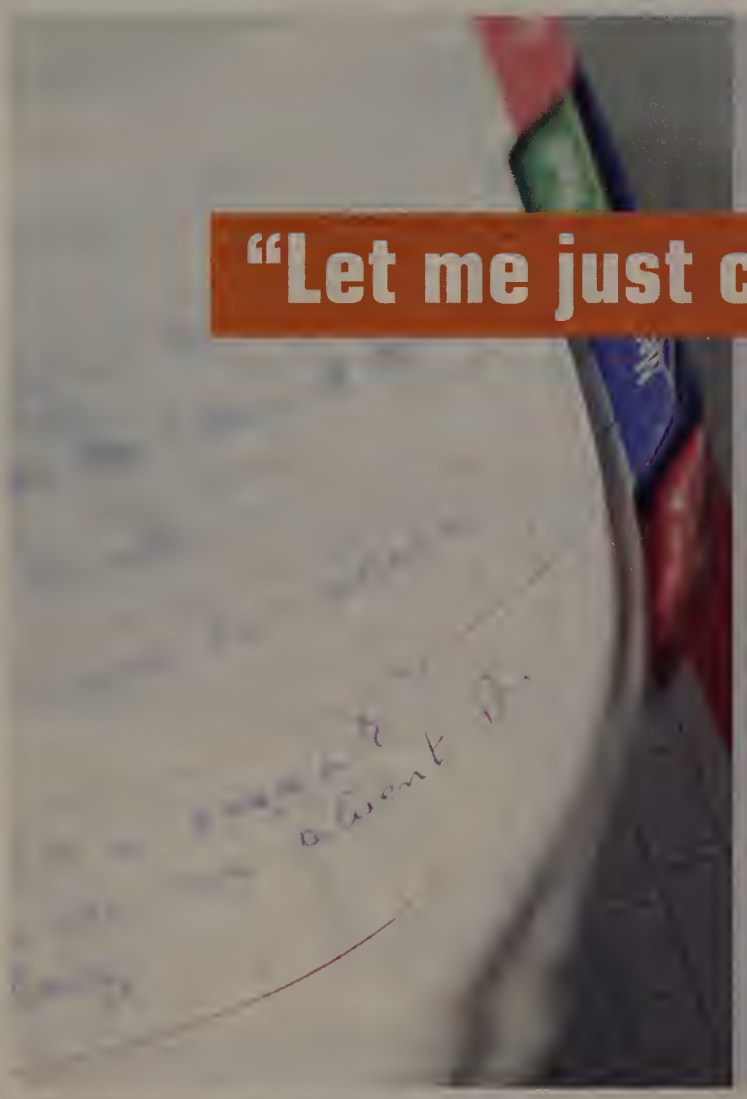
Ready for the Revolution

A number of Web sites are beginning to make use of a new technology called XMLHTTPRequest. Developed by Microsoft and supported by most browsers, XMLHTTPRequest allows a Web page to communicate with a server and retrieve data. Combined with a little JavaScript programming—a technique known as Asynchronous JavaScript and XML (AJAX)—this technology can dynamically change information on a Web page without reloading it. According to David Sawyer McFarland of Sawyer McFarland Media—the person behind *Macworld*'s browser tests and a frequent contributor to the magazine—this technology is now driving sites such as Google Maps (maps.google.com), Google Suggest (labs.google.com/suggest), and PressDisplay (www.pressdisplay.com). McFarland states that this technology is, "hot, hot, hot" and that "many Web sites are jumping on the bandwagon."

All the browsers reviewed here stack up evenly when it comes to loading this not-yet-standard code. They all handled these sites without a problem, which means that no matter which browser you use, you'll be ready for the revolution.



View New Tech Each browser we tested easily handled sites such as PressDisplay, which uses XMLHTTPRequest technology.



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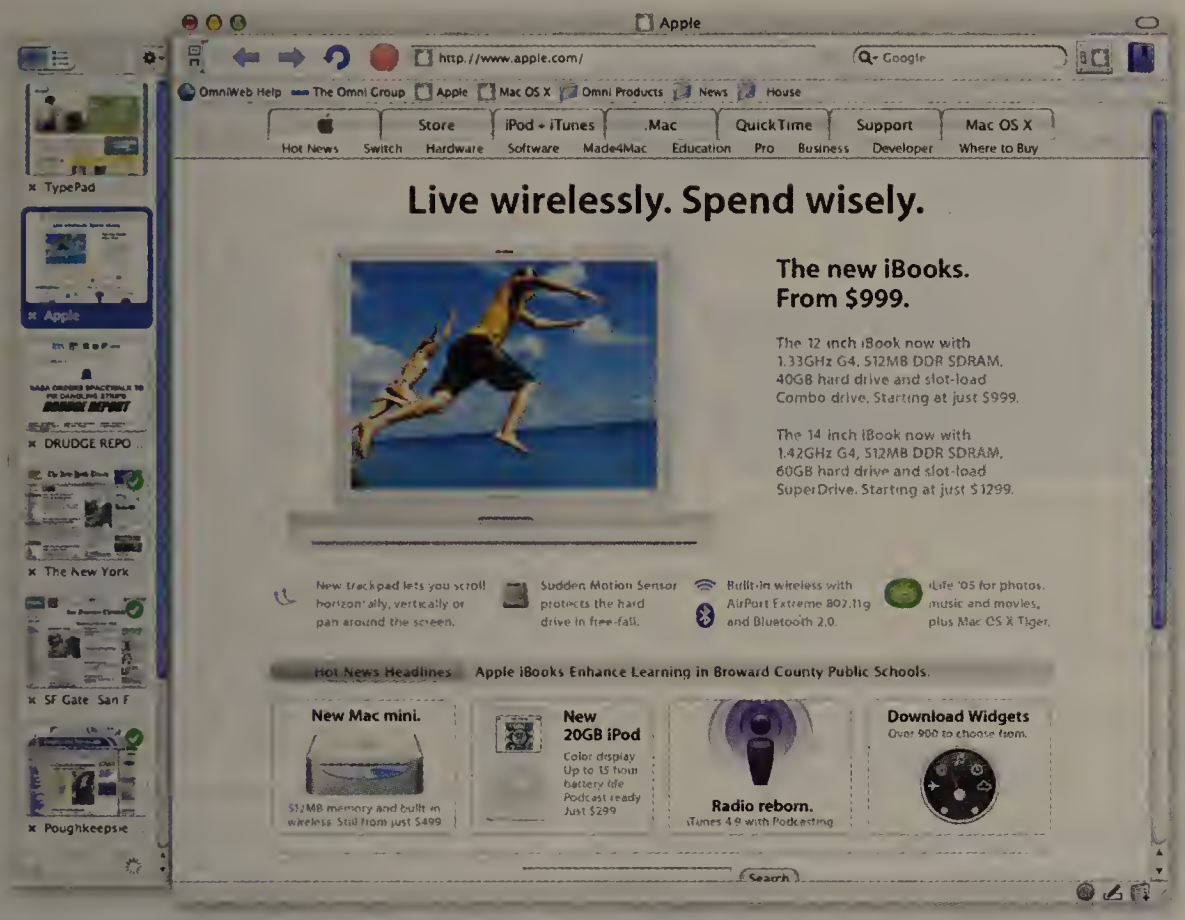
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graphical elements they use, change the organization of text on a page, and change typefaces, sizes, and styles.

Most of the sites you visit daily, such as newspaper or magazine sites, take advantage of basic forms of CSS but still rely on older, HTML-driven techniques such as tables and frames to provide a consistent look-and-feel. As expected, all the browsers handled the test sites without a problem (see "How We Tested"). And surprisingly, all the browsers handled cutting-edge CSS technology well, too. So as Web designers take greater advantage of CSS, you'll be able to view the content on those pages without a problem and exactly as the designers intended, no matter which of these browsers you choose.



Love-Hate Relationship OmniWeb's tab view lets you see thumbnails of all your open tabs but does so at the expense of precious desktop space.

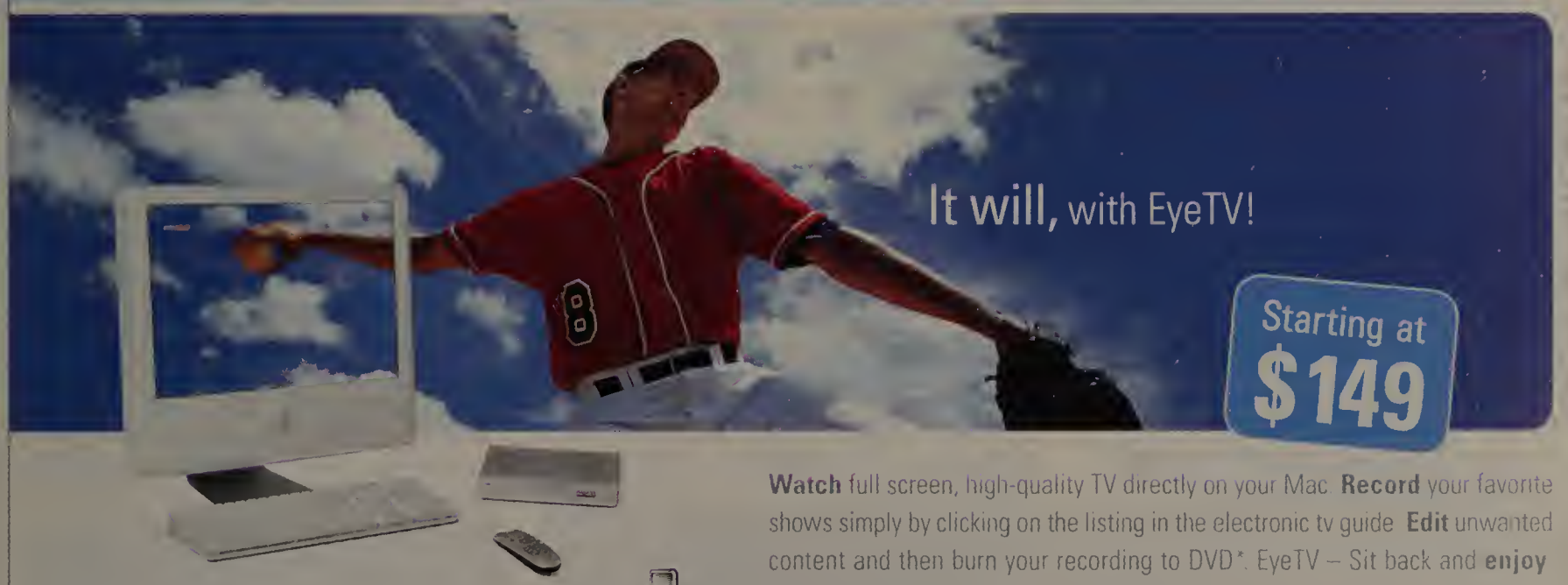
Macworld's Buying Advice

Mozilla's Firefox 1.0.6 is our browser of choice because it's hugely customizable, compatible with the most Web sites and Web-based applications, and downright fun to use. Sure, Safari 2.0.1 is an excellent browser and has some nice new functionality with its integrated RSS news reader, but its usefulness doesn't outweigh Firefox's.

Are you willing to spend a few more bucks for a browser with better features than a free one can offer? The Omni Group's OmniWeb 5.1.1 offers a significant value for $30: thumbnail-based tabs, the ability to save groups of Web pages as Workspaces, and several small but useful features. □

JEFFERY BATTERSBY is a frequent contributor to *Macworld*.

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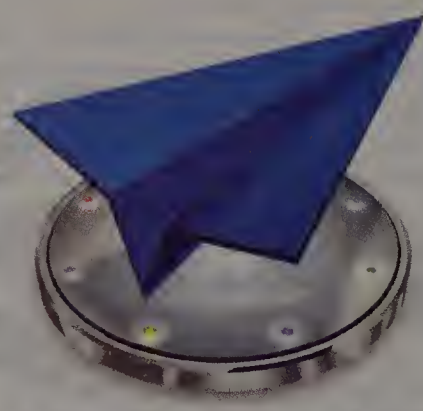
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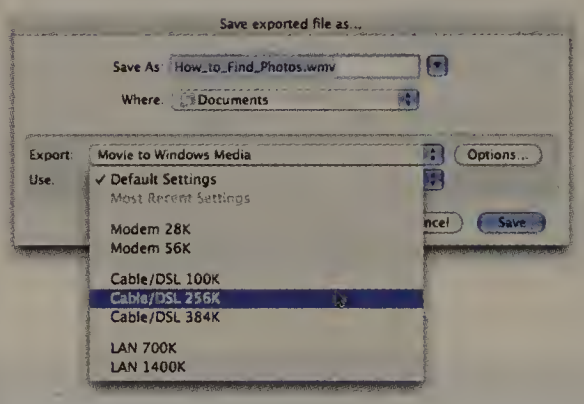
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♦♦♦½ **Cosmic Blobs 1.1** ▲ ($45), from SolidWorks (www.cosmicblobs.com): If you have the Mac horsepower and kids who want to begin exploring 3-D modeling, Cosmic Blobs 1.1 provides an enjoyable introduction (macworld.com/0779).

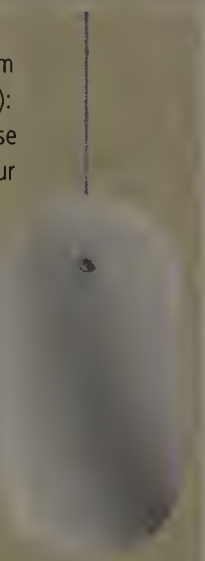


♦♦♦ **Flip4Mac WMV Studio Pro 1.0.6** ▲ ($179), from Telestream (www.flip4mac.com): This software does an excellent job of encoding video content into Windows Media formats, and not having to transfer huge video files to a Windows PC for encoding is a great convenience. However, Flip4Mac Studio Pro should support multiple-bit-rate video files and have compression presets for Apple's Compressor. If you have to deliver Windows Media content, Flip4Mac is a solid choice (macworld.com/0775).



♦♦♦♦ **Photosmart 385 GoGo Photo Printer** ▲ ($199), from Hewlett-Packard (www.hp.com): You can connect HP's Photosmart 385 GoGo portable photo printer to your Mac via a USB 2.0 cable, but it's really designed to print directly from PictBridge-enabled cameras and from most types of camera memory cards. Its colorful prints and its ability to print panoramas make the GoGo a real contender in the fast-growing portable photo printer market (macworld.com/0776).

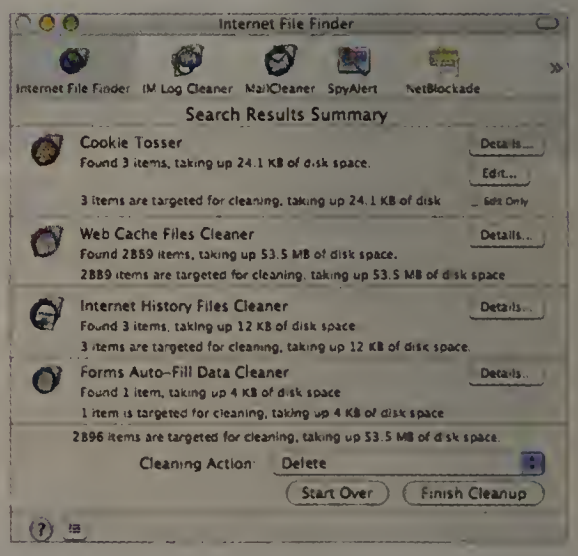
APPLE'S MULTIBUTTON MARVEL
Mighty Mouse



♦♦♦½ **Mighty Mouse** ($49), from Apple Computer (www.apple.com): If you want your multibutton mouse and its software to truly match your Mac, this is the mouse for you. But until it comes with new Macs, you'll pay for the privilege of using an Apple-designed mouse that is, in the end, just a mouse—and not the most graceful one ever invented. If this were a truly revolutionary mouse design, the price wouldn't be an issue (macworld.com/0777).

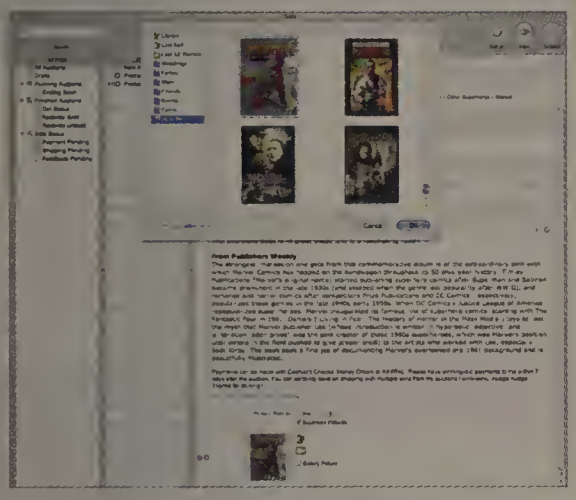
♦♦♦½ **InCopy CS2** ($249; upgrade, $89), from Adobe Systems (www.adobe.com): If you use InCopy CS, the InDesign CS companion tool for non-designer editors, your primary reason for upgrading to the CS2 version will be to stay compatible with the InDesign upgrade. The more distance you want between your editors and your layout files, the more sense InCopy makes (macworld.com/0770).

♦ **InterComm 1.3** (client is free; service varies from free to $100 per month), from Five Across (www.fiveacross.com): Five Across touts InterComm 1.3 as a collaboration tool with instant-messaging, file-sharing, and version-control features. Unfortunately, it fails at almost all of these tasks. It also suffers from a number of reproducible, as well as intermittent, bugs (macworld.com/0771).

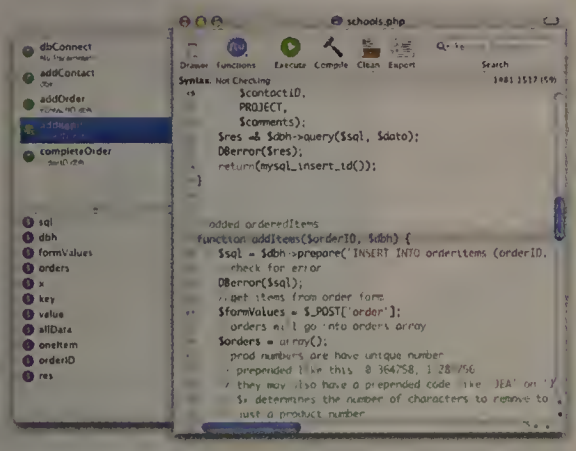


♦♦♦ **Internet Cleanup 3.0** ▲ ($30), from Allume Systems (www.allume.com): Internet Cleanup 3.0 does much more than efficiently rid your Mac of Internet detritus

such as browser caches, autofill data, and your browser-history file—this version has new security features that look for spyware and keystroke recorders. Unfortunately, the program now suffers from feature bloat. In its attempt to be a more thorough Internet security program, it has become confusing and slow (macworld.com/0769).



iSale 2.0 ▲ ($40), from Equinux (www.equinux.com): iSale provides an easy way to hop aboard the eBay auction train. Users familiar with OS X and iLife will be able to start posting listings right away. But advanced users with high-volume auctions and specific needs will want to continue listing from within eBay (macworld.com/0780).



PHP Studio 1.1 ▲ ($25), from Neometric Software (www.neometricsoftware.com): While it's nice to see a dedicated PHP editor for the Mac, PHP Studio feels rough around the edges, lacks useful text-editing features, and is marred by bugs and performance problems when working with large and complex PHP files (macworld.com/0772).



QuicKeys X3 3.1 ▲ ($100), from Startly Technologies (www.startly.com): QuicKeys X3 3.1 is a minor update with a couple of whizbang features, such as the integration of Automator workflows with QuicKeys shortcuts, and the easy-to-use SoftKeys feature. The program is still quite expensive for a utility, and creating complex shortcuts still takes diligence (macworld.com/0778).

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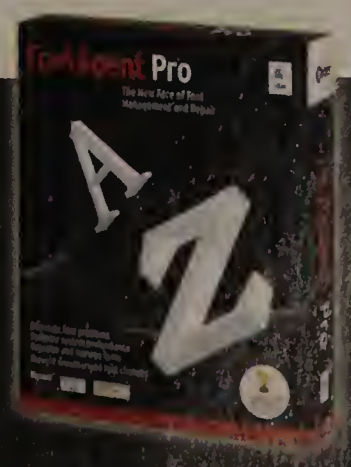
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Keith Martin, MacUser 2005

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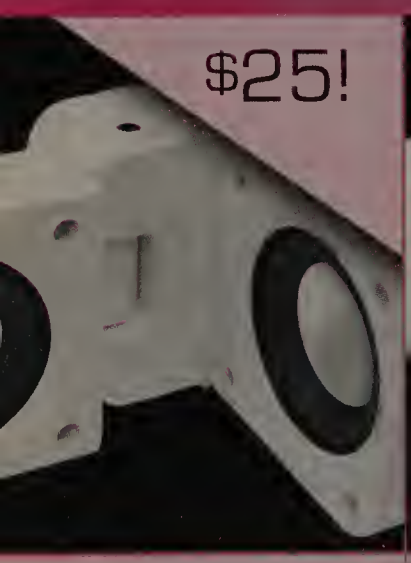
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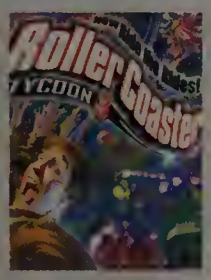
Apple Specialist

Game Room

BY PETER COHEN

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News Feed



Coaster to Coaster

Long-suffering Mac gamers will finally be able to build, and rule over, their own roller-coaster parks when Aspyr (www.aspyr.com) brings Rollercoaster Tycoon 3 to the Mac in November.



Like a Deere in the Headlights

Bold Games (www.boldgames.com) has created two new games for kids. Based on John Deere farm and construction equipment, Welcome to Merriweather Farm and Busy Days in Deerfield Valley should be on store shelves by the time you read this.



Charge!

Feral Interactive's Imperial Glory, due out in November or December, will let you relive the excitement of commanding troops during the Napoleonic Wars. It's a real-time–strategy game set in the early 19th century (www.feralinteractive.com).

ICONS BY PAUL HOWALT





The Last of Its Kind Myst V, the final installment of the hugely popular Myst series, offers new puzzles to solve, new worlds to explore, and plenty of beautiful graphics.

ADVENTURE

Myst V: End of Ages

First Look

It's the end of an era. After more than a decade, the Myst series—hugely popular adventure games with rich prerendered graphics, detailed stories worthy of a novel, brain-twisting puzzles, and nonviolent game play—is finally complete, with the release of Myst V: End of Ages.

Like other Myst games, Myst V draws you into a mystical, magical world. The storyline continues from previous editions; you must help restore the empire of the D'ni, a civilization of people who met with catastrophe as a result of Atrus's family.

Of course, solving puzzles is what Myst V is all about. As in past games, many of the puzzles involve moving levers or other apparatuses to see how they affect something much larger than you. This game introduces *slates*, stone tablets that can be used to communicate with the mysterious and elusive creatures you'll meet throughout the game. To use the slates, you draw primitive symbols you find on your adventures and then lay the tablets out in plain sight so the creatures can see what you've written. If you've drawn the symbols correctly, the creatures will carry out your orders.

Whereas previous versions of Myst let you interact with live actors who were composited into 3-D environments—a sometimes disjointed affair—Myst V maps the actors' faces onto 3-D characters. The net effect is uncanny—the characters aren't entirely lifelike but are much better integrated into the game.

BETA TESTED

PROS: Beautifully produced; challenging puzzles; multiple navigation modes.
CONS: Puzzles are occasionally frustrating; Mac players can use only the more expensive Limited Edition.
PRICE: $60
COMPANY: Ubisoft, www.mystvgame.com

You'll be amazed at how good this game looks. Each world is rich with details, including intricate tapestries and rugs, artfully crafted cornices, striated rocks, and lush vegetation. The worlds are filled with animations of swarms of bugs, flying birds, crawling creatures, and lapping waves.

The system-requirement recommendations are a 1.6GHz G4 or faster, at least a 4× DVD-ROM drive, and OS X 10.3.9 or later.

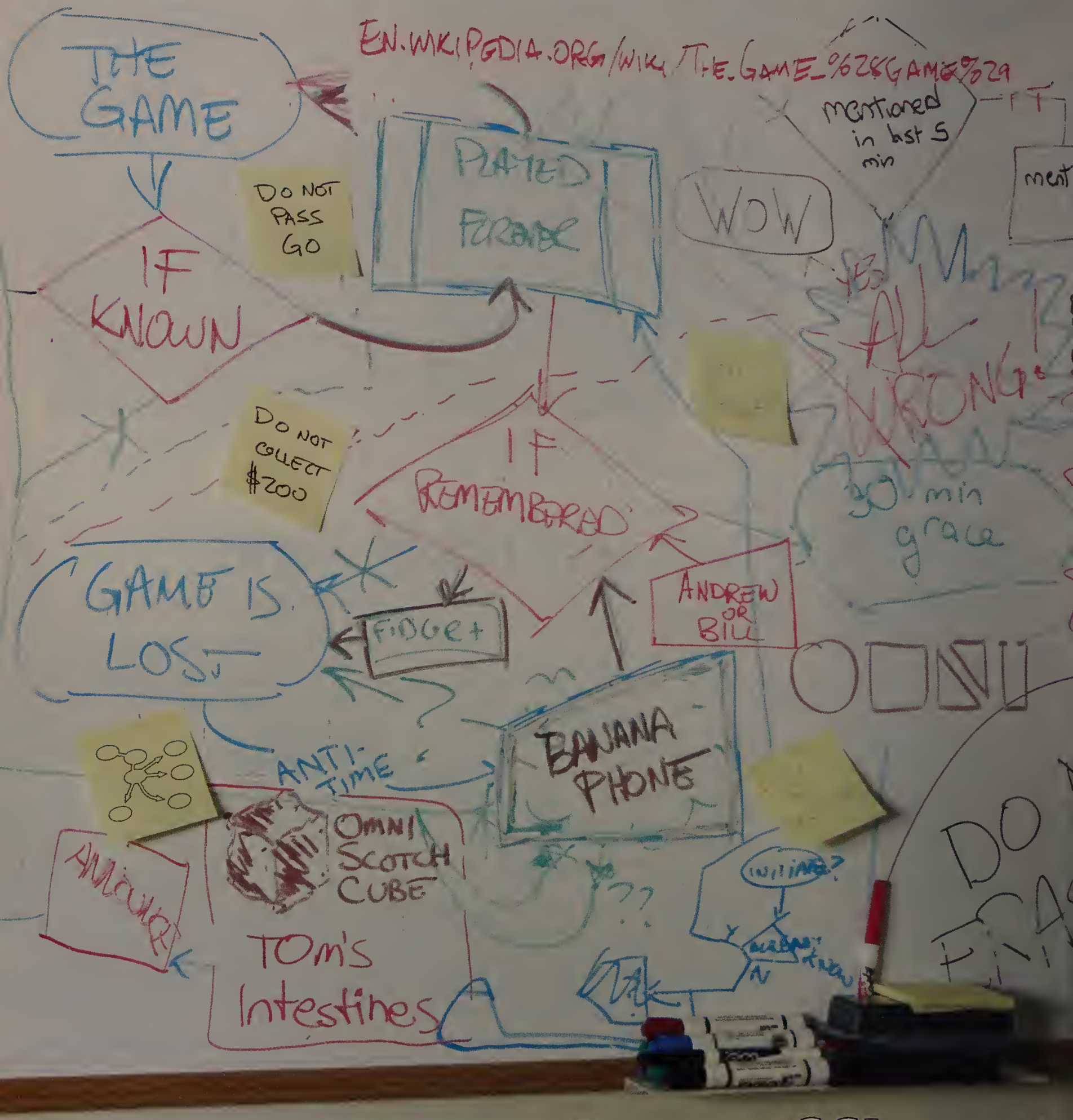
A $50, CD-based Standard Edition ships for PC only, while the $60 Limited Edition DVD version works on both Macs and PCs. So Mac users must purchase the more expensive version. The Limited Edition version of the game features a making-of video, a soundtrack, a collector's art piece, and the official strategy guide—a handy addition for the mere mortals among us who may get stuck trying to unravel some of Myst V's secrets.

The Bottom Line Myst's final chapter is a beautiful, challenging, and fitting close for this historic series.

continues

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ACTION

Lego Star Wars

RATING: ♦♦♦♦
PROS: Kid-friendly; lots of unlockable characters.
CONS: Lego theme may be too silly for some gamers; lacks challenge.
PRICE: $30
COMPANY: Aspyr Media, www.aspyr.com

It would be easy to discount a game that combines Lego building blocks with *Star Wars* mythology as a bit of fluff for kids, but to do so would be a mistake. This is a very fun game that's sure to appeal to adults—especially those who have a good sense of humor.

Lego Star Wars retells the story of the first three *Star Wars* movies. You get to play as Anakin Skywalker, Obi-Wan Kenobi, Qui-Gon Jinn, and more than 30 other characters. Each character has unique abilities: Jedis wield lightsabers and can use the Force to move objects, for example. Droids such as R2-D2 can hover and unlock doors. You'll want to take these powers into account when choosing a character for each level of the game.

The game combines solving puzzles and straightforward combat against foes such as Darth Maul and Count Dooku. You can also ride a podracer on the surface of Tatooine, fly a fighter on Geonosis, and more.

Game play is like playing with Legos in real life, but it's a lot more animated and sophisticated. When you whack a bad guy with your lightsaber, he'll fall apart into blocks rather than a spray of blood and gore. Despite the deceptively simple geometry of the Lego characters and backdrops, the game is fairly demanding on the technical end. You'll need a 1.2GHz G4 or faster with OS X 10.3.8 or later and at least 32MB of VRAM. That's because the game uses advanced OpenGL-based graphics that boost its realism.

Young players shouldn't have any trouble picking up the mechanics of game play. An experienced gamer will be able to finish the game in just a few hours. If younger players do run into trouble, a two-person mode lets more-advanced players step in to help guide the first player through the story.

The Bottom Line Buy it for a child if you must, but Lego Star Wars isn't just a kid's game. It's a novelty that's fun for everyone.



Size Matters Not Lego blocks serve as the backdrop for the *Star Wars*–themed action game Lego Star Wars.

ACTION

Midnight Mansion

RATING: ♦♦♦♦
PROS: Kid-friendly; includes a level editor; supports multiple accounts.
CONS: Graphics are a bit amateurish.
PRICE: $20
COMPANY: ActionSoft, www.actionsoft.com

One of my first gaming experiences on the Mac was with Dark Castle, an ancient black-and-white game from Silicon Beach Software. In it, you explored a castle that was overrun by creatures of all types—swooping birds, rats, bats, and more—and you were armed only with rocks. ActionSoft's Midnight Mansion is an updated take on this Mac classic—and others before it—and has plenty of fun extras.

In Midnight Mansion, you assume the role of Jack Malone, a fedora-wearing adventurer in the Indiana Jones mold. But instead of recovering archeological artifacts, Jack is a treasure hunter. He has found a map of eight haunted mansions that are rich with gold—and infested with monsters, traps, and pitfalls of every conceivable size and shape.

The mansions are absolutely huge. According to the developer, there are more than 750 rooms to explore in all. To find his treasure, Jack must traverse treacherous pits, make his way over lava-filled pools, climb ladders, shimmy down poles, and most important, avoid the monsters—such as floating medusa heads that swarm like angry bees, and skull spiders that skitter across the floor—that protect these mansions.

Midnight Mansion is a nonviolent game. In fact, there's even a preference that lets you turn off the blood effects that occasionally pop-up—when Jack gets eaten by giant spiders, for example.

continues

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Treasure Hunt Midnight Mansion is a platform game that evokes past classics such as Dark Castle.

Different keys unlock different doors. Occasionally, Jack will need to toggle levers to unlock doors or activate platforms and other objects. There are also electric barriers and other traps that Jack will have to either avoid or figure out how to turn off in order to proceed. Three levels of difficulty give you access to different mansion layouts and keep things challenging.

The game supports multiple user accounts, so if you and your kids want to play separately, you can each set up your own account. If you need to step away, you can suspend the game and pick up where you left off.

Midnight Mansion has a terrific soundtrack that helps set the mood. Despite appearing a bit amateurish, the cartoon-like graphics are well suited to the game. They also allow for fairly modest system requirements: you can play with any Mac that runs OS X 10.1.5 or later. Download a demo of the game and give it a try before you buy.

The Bottom Line If you were a fan of Dark Castle or similar games, check out Midnight Mansion. It's a well-executed blast from the past.

STRATEGY

Salvo

RATING: 1½
PROS: Sailing strategy games are a rarity.
CONS: Clunky interface; lame sound effects; no multiplayer support.
PRICE: $40
COMPANY: ShrapnelGames, www.shrapnelgames.com

Salvo may appeal to hard-core fans of strategy war games, but almost everyone else will want to avoid this clunker. It has a lousy look and fairly beastly system requirements.

Salvo takes you back to the great Age of Sail, so you can lead British, French, Spanish, Dutch, and American navies as these empires battle for world domination. The game unravels in five-minute turn-based chunks, as you decide how to

continues

Top Downloads | Superstar Chefs



The premise behind Superstar Chefs—one of my favorite games by developer Mac Joy—is simple: someone has stolen the chefs' secret recipes and spread them all over Cocktail Land. It's up to you to get them back. Under your direction, adorable, bug-eyed cartoon chefs must search every level, jumping to reach fruit in order to change platforms or avoid obstacles. Collect all the fruits on screen, and you'll proceed to the next level. Birds, fish, and crazy-eyed bats populate each level. You can try to avoid them, but it's also fun to stomp on them for extra points.

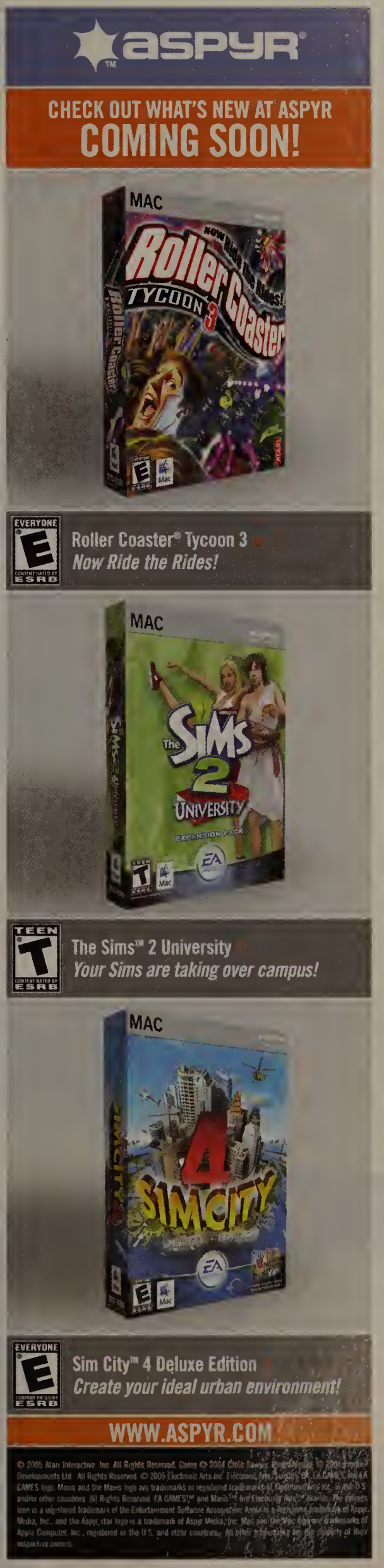
Each level is filled with colorful graphics, smooth animations, and a wealth of visual distractions such as elevators, spikes, and cannons. The game's bright and happy sound effects make this game cuter than a basket of puppies. Every time I launched it, my kids would appear out of nowhere to watch me play.

To play, you'll need OS X 10.2 or later and a 16MB OpenGL-capable graphics system. A downloadable demo version lets you check out the first few levels before you buy it.

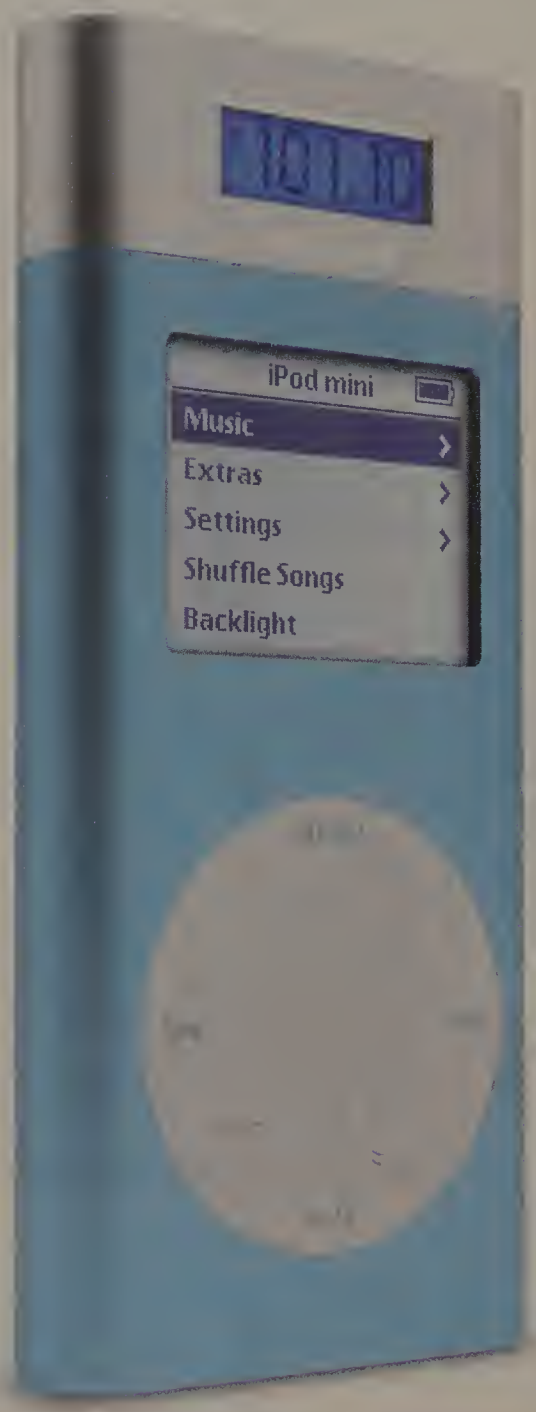
The Bottom Line With Superstar Chefs, Mac Joy has produced a delightful and addictive arcade game that's suitable for the entire family.

RATING: 4½
PROS: Multiple difficulty levels; multiplayer support; simple game mechanics.
CONS: None significant.
PRICE: $20
COMPANY: Mac Joy, www.macjoy.com

ICON BY PAUL HOWALT



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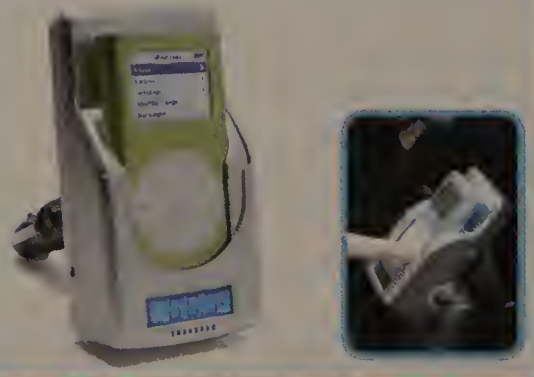
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maneuver your fleets in a 3-D environment. Movement itself is hex-based—you can move in one of six directions, mapped out on a flat, two-dimensional grid. It's a throwback to the pen-and-paper strategy games of yore, which some old-fashioned gamers prefer.

As long as your ships are in range and positioned properly, they'll attack the enemy automatically, so you don't need to micromanage cannon barrages. You can also try to board enemy vessels to commandeer them.

Visually, Salvo is a huge disappointment. Graphics are blocky, chunky, and amateurish. There are a few nice embellishments such as the differentiation of types of vessels—schooners, frigates, and so on. You'll also get signs of damage when your fleet is under attack—for example smoke streaming from the decks, torn sails, and so on.

Although a battle map gives you a good bird's-eye view of what's happening, the game's interface is positively primitive. The awkward positioning of interface buttons and pop-up screens containing statistical information about the boats resemble HyperCard efforts from more than a decade ago, not something you'd expect in 2005. And forcing players on OS X to double-click on a Director engine icon surrounded by miscellaneous files and directories is, well, unforgivable.



Jump Ship Commanding vast navies is hardly worth the effort in Salvo.

The game's sound effects are mediocre at best. Looped ocean sounds are offset by occasional cannon blasts and cheers from your crew, but little more.

The game doesn't offer support for networked multiplayer gaming or even multiplayer gaming from the same computer (something that should be fairly simple to implement in a turn-based game such as this one). At $40, this game is totally unreasonably priced.

The Bottom Line Salvo has an amateurish look and suffers from a clunky interface. Give this naval-warfare simulator wide berth. □

Macworld.com Senior News Editor PETER COHEN is sad—and yet strangely relieved—to see the Myst series come to an end.

Game Gear

Radeon 9600 Pro PC & Mac Edition

First Look

ATI Technologies is the only graphics-card maker to support Power Mac G4 gamers with viable retail graphics cards. Until now, though, the pickings have been slim: you could either spend $129 on an underpowered Radeon 9000 Pro Mac Edition or $299 for the beefier Radeon 9800 Pro Mac Edition. But with its new $199 Radeon 9600 Pro PC & Mac Edition, ATI is finally offering a midrange card that works in either a Mac or a PC—a first for graphics cards.

The card features 256MB of VRAM and two Digital Visual Interface (DVI) connectors, so you can hook up two flat-panel displays simultaneously. One of the DVI connectors is a dual-link connector, which will work with Apple's 30-inch Cinema HD Display and similar behemoths. It's passively cooled using a heat sink, so it won't produce any fan noise of its own.

The Radeon 9600 chip isn't as fast or as capable as the Radeon 9800. But it offers good performance for its price. G5 owners won't benefit much from the card, but it might be attractive to someone looking to hook up a 30-inch Cinema HD Display.

The Bottom Line The Radeon 9600 Pro PC & Mac Edition is a great option for G4 owners who want to upgrade without spending a mint, or who want to add a 30-inch display to their system.



ICON BY PAUL HOWALT

BETA TESTED

PROS: Cross-platform support; good performance for the price; dual-link DVI connector.
CONS: Not much value for G5 owners.
PRICE: $199
COMPANY: ATI Technologies, www.ati.com

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FIREWIRE AND USB 2.0 HUB

Hub for Mac Mini



Low Profile Belkin's USB and FireWire hub is the perfect match for your Mac mini.

I love my Mac mini, except for one thing: its paucity of USB and FireWire ports. It's got only one FireWire port, which means that if I want to connect more than one FireWire device, I have to daisy-chain them—assuming those devices offer multiple FireWire ports themselves. And with only two USB ports, once I've plugged in my keyboard, I'm down to one port for peripherals (and USB devices generally don't provide multiple ports for daisy-chaining).

There are dozens of decent hubs on the market, but I don't want to spoil the Mac mini's attractive design and small footprint with a less stylish accessory. So I was pleased to discover Belkin's $59 Hi-Speed USB 2.0 and FireWire 6-Port Hub for Mac mini (♦♦♦♦; www.belkin.com). The Belkin hub matches the Mac mini in every way. It has the same footprint as the mini, so it fits directly underneath the mini without taking up additional desk space; at only 0.75 inches tall, it doesn't add a lot of bulk; and it's finished in white plastic, so it looks right at home.

The hub connects to your Mac mini's FireWire port and one of its USB ports via included cables. Belkin got the details right—the cables are only 6 inches long, just long enough to connect your mini to the hub without adding to your cable clutter. The hub provides four USB 2.0 ports (a net increase of three) and two FireWire 400 ports (a net increase of one), so you end up with five available USB ports instead of two and two available FireWire ports instead of one. Even better, the hub has one of each type of port located on its front, so connecting devices such as digital cameras, DV camcorders, flash drives, iPod shuffles, and portable hard drives is much more convenient.

One significant drawback to Belkin's Hub for Mac mini is that, unlike some other USB or FireWire hubs, it doesn't provide its own power—any devices plugged into the hub get their power from your Mac mini's USB and FireWire ports. In my experience, powered hubs help prevent problems with devices that draw too much power, so I generally prefer self-powered hubs to bus-powered models. That said, in a few months of using the Belkin hub, I haven't experienced a single problem.

At $59, Belkin's Hub for Mac mini is a bit pricey compared with other USB hubs, but it gives you an extra FireWire port and a design that matches your mini perfectly (and you can find it for much less online).

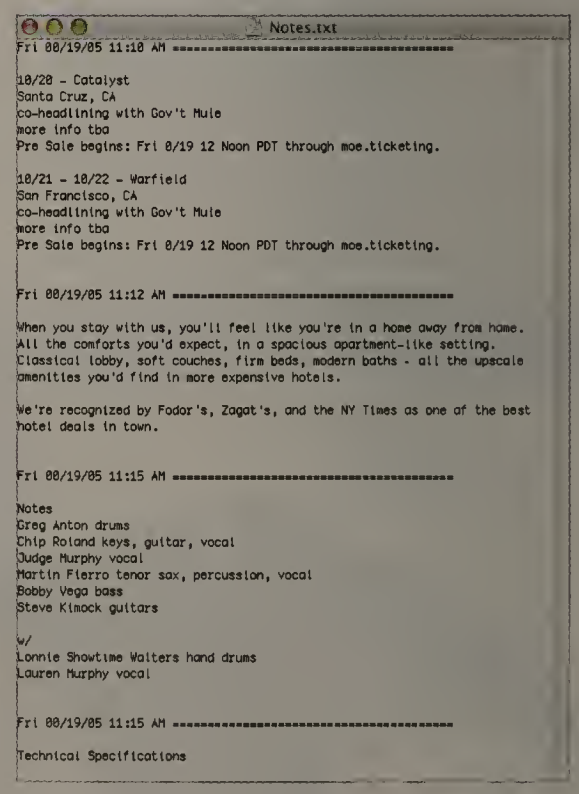
If you don't need an extra FireWire port, Belkin also makes a USB-only model, the $41 Hi-Speed USB 2.0 4-Port Hub for Mac mini, which plugs into one of your Mac mini's USB ports and provides four ports.

TEXT-SAVING TOOL

AppendNote 1.0

When I come across interesting or useful information while surfing the Web, I either save it as a text file (or text clipping) or write it down on a scrap of paper. Needless to say, neither of these methods is very efficient or effective. In the days of OS 9, one of my favorite utilities was a system extension that allowed me to save text to a document by pressing a keyboard shortcut. When I found information I wanted to save, I just selected the text, copied it to the Clipboard, and then pressed the shortcut. At a later date, I could open the document containing all my scavenged information and decide what to do with each snippet. Unfortunately, that utility—I can't even remember the name of it now—never made the jump to OS X, and I've missed it ever since.

But I recently discovered an OS X equivalent that I like even better: Enigmarelle Development's free OS X service, AppendNote 1.0 (♦♦♦♦; www.enigmarelle.com). To use AppendNote, highlight text in a services-aware application (Safari, Mail, TextEdit, and others), and then choose the Append To Notes File item in the Services submenu—you don't even have to copy the text to the Clipboard first, as my old OS 9 standby required. Or, even easier, just press the AppendNote keyboard shortcut, ⌘-shift-J. AppendNote saves the highlighted text in a file called Notes.txt located in your Documents folder (if that file already exists, AppendNote adds the new snippet to the end of the existing content). To help you keep track of your snippets, AppendNote tags each new entry in the file with the day, date, and time you

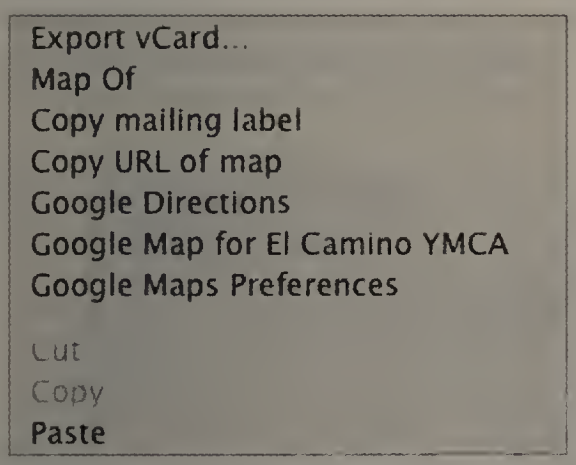


Take Note AppendNote lets you save snippets of text on-the-fly.

added it. And you can open the Notes file at any time to edit it (delete text, add text, and so on). AppendNote will continue to add new text to the end of the file.

Because AppendNote is a service, it doesn't have a graphical interface, which means it doesn't provide a Preferences dialog box as most applications do. However, you can customize AppendNote's behavior. Enigmarelle includes an AppleScript that lets you choose the format of the note separator; the style of the day, date, and time tag; and the location and name of the file.

A good number of applications out there are specifically designed to help you organize notes and information, but many of them are overkill if you just want to save text you find in your daily Web surfing and e-mail reading. Also, AppendNote saves your information in a standard text file that you can open in any text editor, and you can stick your Notes file in the Dock for easy access. For temporary text filing, AppendNote is hard to beat.



Google Guide Prefer to get your maps from Google? Google Maps Plugin makes it easy to search from Address Book.

ADDRESS BOOK ADD-ON

Google Maps Plugin 2.2.1

You probably already know that if you control- or right-click on a contact's address in Address Book, you can choose the Map Of option from the contextual menu that appears—which then displays a MapQuest.com map of that address in your Web browser. But I prefer Google Maps, so I was happy to find Brian Toth's free Google Maps Plugin 2.2.1 (♦♦♦♦; www.briantoth.com), which queries Google instead.

Google Maps Plugin actually comprises three items. Google Map For *name* opens your Web browser to a map of the contact's address in Google Maps. Google Directions opens a dialog box where you can enter start and end points for driving directions. By default, it picks your home address and that of the current Address Book contact as the start and end points, respectively, but you can also choose from your Address Book contacts or enter a custom address. Clicking on the OK button opens your browser to Google Maps' directions for traveling between the two locations.

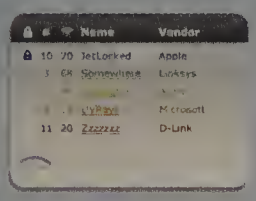
Finally, Google Maps Preferences lets you determine how the plug-in passes addresses to Google. This is important because Google Maps (which is still a beta) can have trouble finding some addresses, such as those that contain odd characters, apartment numbers, or extended zip codes.

For people who wish Address Book would use Google Maps instead of MapQuest.com, Google Maps Plugin is the way to go.

continues

Hot Widgets

There are more than 1,100 Dashboard widgets on Apple's Web site alone, and I review lots of them in the Mac Gems Weblog. Here are seven of my current favorites (and they're all free).



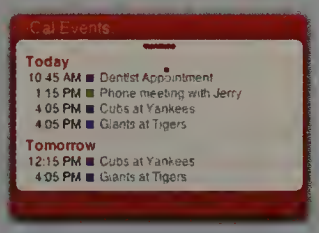
Air Traffic Control 1.0

If you've got an AirPort-equipped Mac, Air Traffic Control (♦♦♦♦) displays nearby wireless networks, including each one's name, channel, signal strength, and security status; click on the network name, and Air Traffic Control will attempt to connect your Mac to it (www.spintriplet.com).



BART

Riders of the San Francisco Bay Area's BART transit system can use the BART widget (♦♦♦♦♦) to find routes, schedules, and fares for getting from point A to point B. Setting up a trip couldn't be easier—you use the map to drag start and finish markers to the stations between which you'll be traveling (worrydream.com).



iCal Events

iCal Events (♦♦♦♦½) lets you view upcoming iCal events at a glance, including times and parent calendars. Clicking on an event takes you to the iCal entry for it (www.benkazez.com).



iClip Lite

iClip lite (♦♦♦♦) combines the functionality of a multiple-Clipboard utility with the easy access of Dashboard. Each of iClip lite's clip bins can hold text, images, sound—anything OS X's own Clipboard can handle. Click on a bin's up arrow to add the Clipboard's contents to a bin; click on the bin's down arrow to add its contents to the Clipboard (inventive.us).



Scoreboard

For people who want up-to-the-minute baseball scores, Scoreboard (♦♦♦♦) presents a scrolling list of the day's games, with stats updated in real time. Or you can tell it to monitor just your favorite team. Clicking on any game in Scoreboard takes you to the Fox Sports Web page for that game (macworld.com/0748).

WidgetTerm

If you can sum up your use of Terminal as "get in and get out," download WidgetTerm (♦♦♦♦). It provides a resizable shell (Terminal) window right in Dashboard. When you're not using it, it can roll up out of the way (macworld.com/0749).



Wimic

Comic lovers will enjoy Wimic (♦♦♦♦½), which lets you view 75 popular comic strips right in Dashboard; just choose a comic from the menu and Wimic will morph to the proper size to display it. A nice touch: Wimic shrinks to a simple speech balloon when you're not using it (macworld.com/0750).



Rockin' Dock Jazz up your standard Dock (top)—and make it more functional—with Free Range Mac's TransparentDock (bottom).

DOCK CUSTOMIZER

TransparentDock 2.3.3

When I finally upgraded my mission-critical Mac to Tiger, I noticed something amiss. I'd been using Free Range Mac's $8 TransparentDock 2.3.3 (★★★★½; www.freerangemac.com) to customize my Dock for so long that I'd forgotten what a stock Dock looked like. It was then that I realized how much I had relied on TransparentDock.

The most obvious difference between the standard Dock and my customized one is that the latter is completely transparent. But there are many other subtle differences as well. I've changed the Dock border and the triangles indicating open applications from black to white. I've also increased the size of the text label for the item beneath the cursor, and I've chosen a different appearance for minimized folders. Finally, one of my favorite settings makes the icons of hidden applications translucent. TransparentDock gives you complete control over all these appearance settings and a few more—you can change the color of the Dock's background, and you can even customize the "poof" effect that occurs when you drag an item off the Dock.

But these are just the visual options. TransparentDock includes many more that affect how the Dock behaves. In addition to the settings available in most OS X–tweaking utilities—Dock placement (bottom, top, left, right), pinning (middle, start, end), and the minimize and maximize effects (Genie, Scale, Suck)—power users and developers will appreciate having the ability to view background applications, hidden and system files, and package contents in the Dock and its menus. Tweakers will like the option of adding a Quit item to the Finder's Dock menu. And many users will welcome the ability to turn off bouncing icons when an application wants your attention, and to make the Dock work like a standard Mac OS window instead of always floating above other windows. You can even remove the Finder icon from the Dock or lock Dock icons so they can't be removed.

TransparentDock also provides one other feature that will be popular with people who can't settle on a single look: themes. You can save Dock settings as different themes and then switch between them via TransparentDock's Theme palette. This feature also allows you to save different configurations, with various applications, documents, and so on, in each Dock—even if you keep the overall appearance of the Dock the same. In this respect, TransparentDock can replace a number of other Dock utilities with a single tool.



Now that I've rediscovered TransparentDock, my Dock is once again perfect (for me, at least).

MOUSE-BUTTON ENHANCER

One Finger Snap 1.2.1

Even with the introduction of Apple's new Mighty Mouse—the first multibutton pointer in the company's history—Macs still ship with a single-button mouse (or, in the case of laptops, a single button for the trackpad). And without purchasing a new mouse, the only way to access OS X's contextual menus is to hold down the control key while you click on your mouse's single button. Why is this a problem? Well, it requires you to use two hands to do what should take only one—especially in the case of PowerBooks and iBooks, where you're less likely to be using a third-party, multibutton input device.

Luckily, Old Jewel Software has released the $7 One Finger Snap 1.2.1 (♦♦♦½; www.oldjewelsoftware.com). This system preference lets you access contextual menus simply by clicking and holding the button of a mouse or trackpad—you set how long you need to hold it, anywhere from half a second to three seconds. One nice touch is that One Finger Snap can provide feedback—in the form of a finger-snap sound, a screen flash, or both—to let you know when you've held the mouse button long enough. This is useful for situations where One Finger Snap doesn't work—such as with incompatible applications—so you aren't sitting there waiting long after the contextual menu should have appeared.



One Button, One Hand One Finger Snap lets you activate contextual menus simply by clicking and holding the mouse button.

One Finger Snap is also smart enough to understand the difference between holding and dragging—if you move the cursor while you have the button pressed, the software will assume that you're trying to drag content and will not activate the contextual menu.

Finally, you can deactivate One Finger Snap in specific applications if you discover that it's incompatible with them. Unfortunately, the procedure for doing so requires typing a command in Terminal. The utility's Read Me file documents the command, but having to use Terminal for such a basic setting is a hassle; a better approach would be a dialog box in which you could choose the appropriate apps.

One Finger Snap is especially useful for PowerBook and iBook users, since they can't replace the trackpad with a multibutton version, but it's even helpful for people who've already purchased a two-button mouse for their Mac: by using One Finger Snap to access contextual menus, you free up your second mouse button for other things, such as activating Exposé or Dashboard. □

Senior Writer DAN FRAKES (www.danfrakes.com) is also the reviews editor of Playlistmag.com. Send your thoughts on this column, or on things you'd like to see in future columns, to macgems@macworld.com.



Top Products

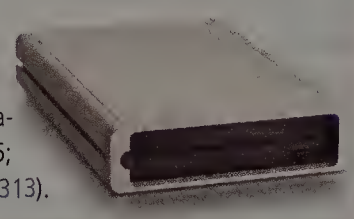
YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST HARDWARE WE'VE TESTED

SEE MORE HARDWARE REVIEWS!
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DUAL-LAYER DVD BURNER

♦♦♦♦ **d2 DVD± RW 16× FireWire, with Double Layer** ($189), from LaCie (www.lacie.com):

This DVD burner can burn 8.5GB of data to dual-layer DVDs (which offer twice the capacity of single-layer discs). Although it has a relatively slow read speed, its performance is very good overall—it burns 2.4×-rated dual-layer media at 4×. Its excellent Mac compatibility includes support for OS X 10.4 (Tiger) and iLife (except for iDVD), and it comes with the full version of Roxio's Toast Titanium (April 2005; macworld.com/0313).



FLATBED SCANNERS

MIDRANGE SCANNER



♦♦♦♦½ **CanoScan 9950F** ($400), from Canon (www.canon.com):

This CanoScan offers improved scan quality and more-intuitive software controls. The 9950F tops its predecessor, the 9900F, in almost every way (macworld.com/0188).

LOW-END SCANNER

♦♦♦♦ **CanoScan 8400F** ($150), from Canon (www.canon.com):

The 8400F has limited transparency support but is a great all-around scanner (macworld.com/0187).

DIGITAL CAMERAS

BUDGET CAMERA



♦♦♦ **Photosmart M22** ($150), from Hewlett-Packard (www.hp.com); macworld.com/0595

FOR DIGITAL PHOTO BEGINNERS



♦♦♦♦ **PowerShot SD400** ($399), from Canon (www.canon.com); macworld.com/0634

FOR INTERMEDIATE SHOOTERS



♦♦♦♦ **C-7070 Wide Zoom** ($600), from Olympus (www.olympus.com); macworld.com/0577

FOR ADVANCED AMATEURS



♦♦♦♦ **Dimage Z5** ($649), from Konica Minolta (www.konicaminolta.com); July 2005; macworld.com/0534

DIGITAL SLR CAMERA



♦♦♦♦½ **EOS Digital Rebel XT** ($899; with EF-S 18mm–55mm f3.5–f5.6 zoom lens, $999), from Canon (www.canon.com); July 2005; macworld.com/0535

MACS

DESKTOP

Product	Processor	Display	Rating	More Information	Best Price[A]	Speedmark Score[B]
iMac	G5/1.8GHz	17 inches	♦♦♦♦	macworld.com/0599	$1,220	163
	G5/2GHz	17 inches	♦♦♦♦	macworld.com/0600	$1,439	174
	G5/2GHz	20 inches	♦♦♦♦½	macworld.com/0601	$1,730	174
eMac	G4/1.42GHz (Combo drive)	17 inches	♦♦♦½	macworld.com/0602	$788	140
	G4/1.42GHz (SuperDrive)	17 inches	♦♦♦♦	macworld.com/0603	$911	142
Mac mini	G4/1.25GHz	not included	♦♦♦½	macworld.com/0316	$494	100
	G4/1.42GHz (Combo drive)	not included	♦♦♦♦	macworld.com/0321	$559	115
	G4/1.42GHz (SuperDrive)	not included	♦♦♦♦½	macworld.com/0709	$680	115
Power Mac	G5/dual-2GHz	not included	♦♦♦♦	macworld.com/0604	$1,898	205
	G5/dual-2.3GHz	not included	♦♦♦♦	macworld.com/0605	$2,241	226
	G5/dual-2.7GHz	not included	♦♦♦♦	macworld.com/0606	$2,773	250

PORTABLE

Product	Processor	Display	Rating	More Information	Best Price[A]	Speedmark Score[B]
iBook	G4/1.33GHz	12 inches	♦♦♦♦	macworld.com/0705	$939	106
	G4/1.42GHz	14 inches	♦♦♦	macworld.com/0706	$1,294	111
PowerBook	G4/1.5GHz (Combo drive)	12 inches	♦♦♦♦	macworld.com/0398	$1,370	not tested
	G4/1.5GHz (SuperDrive)	12 inches	♦♦♦♦	macworld.com/0399	$1,508	not tested
	G4/1.5GHz	15 inches	♦♦♦♦	macworld.com/0400	$1,670	123
	G4/1.67GHz	15 inches	♦♦♦♦	macworld.com/0401	$1,990	not tested
	G4/1.67GHz	17 inches	♦♦♦♦	macworld.com/0402	$2,250	135

[A] From a PriceGrabber survey of retailers as of September 13, 2005. [B] Speedmark 4 is Macworld Lab's standard test tool for benchmarking systems running Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger). For information on Speedmark testing, go to www.macworld.com/speedmark.

COLOR INK-JET PRINTER



♦♦♦♦½ **Photosmart 8450** ($250), from Hewlett-Packard (www.hp.com):

This networkable ink-jet printer uses as many as eight dye-based inks to print great-looking photos with or without your computer. Its LCD makes direct-from-camera printing easy, and the printer produces some of the best-looking text we've seen from an ink-jet (macworld.com/0280).

FIREWIRE HARD DRIVES

Product	Rating	Price	Contact	Capacity	Comments
DESKTOP HARD DRIVES					
Iomega Black Series Triple Interface	♦♦♦♦½	$240	www.iomega.com	250GB	Fast; various connection options; low price per GB; can boot OS X via FireWire.
OWC Mercury Elite-AL Pro FireWire 800/400 + USB 2.0	♦♦♦♦½	$399	www.macsales.com	400GB	Fast; various connection options; slim aluminum case; can boot OS X via FireWire.
PORTABLE HARD DRIVES					
OWC 100GB Mercury On-the-Go 5,400-rpm 8MB	♦♦♦♦	$300	www.macsales.com	100GB	Slightly expensive; fast; various connection options; can boot OS X via FireWire.
LaCie Mobile Hard Drive, 7,200 rpm USB 2.0 and FireWire	♦♦♦½	$240	www.lacie.com	60GB	Very fast; various connection options; can boot OS X via FireWire.

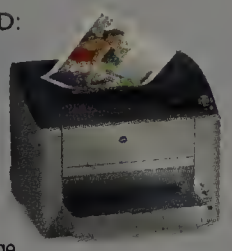
For more reviews of desktop drives, go to macworld.com/0580. For reviews of portable drives, go to macworld.com/0314.

COLOR LASER PRINTERS

♦♦♦♦ **LaserJet 2550Ln** ($600), from Hewlett-Packard (www.hp.com):

This networkable printer offers crisp text and good color fidelity. It also supports Apple's Bonjour. But its paper capacity is only 125 sheets (macworld.com/0083).

ALSO RECOMMENDED:



♦♦♦♦ **Magicolor 2430 DL** ($499), from Konica Minolta (www.konicaminolta.com):

With accurate color prints and features such as PictBridge camera printing, this networkable printer could be good for your home or small office, but it's noisy and doesn't support PostScript (macworld.com/0635).

MINIDV CAMCORDER

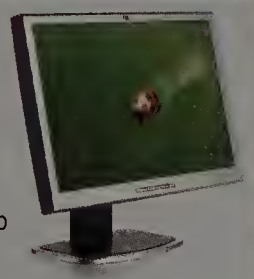


♦♦♦♦ **Optura 60** ($899), from Canon (www.canon.com):

The Optura 60 shoots excellent video (as long as you have enough light) with accurate, vibrant color. It also offers optical image stabilization, a true 16:9 widescreen mode, and extensive manual controls for creative flexibility. It snaps decent still images, too (macworld.com/0621).

LCD MONITORS

23-INCH DISPLAY



♦♦♦♦½ **L2335** ($1,599), from Hewlett-Packard (www.hp.com):

Along with its outstanding value and ability to pivot to portrait mode, the HP L2335 provides excellent video-in options and very good color fidelity and viewing angle (March 2005; macworld.com/0278).

20-INCH DISPLAY

♦♦♦♦½ **MultiSync LCD2070NX** ($799), from NEC Display Solutions (www.necdisplay.com):

The MultiSync LCD2070NX is great for people who want a moderately priced 20-inch monitor that can display bright, accurate colors (macworld.com/0636).

19-INCH DISPLAY



♦♦♦♦ **SDM-HS95P** ($699), from Sony (www.sony.com):

This display lacks some of the features found on other displays (such as a USB hub, speakers, and the ability to pivot), but the SDM-HS95P is a bright and nicely designed LCD that performs well (macworld.com/0638).

17-INCH DISPLAY

♦♦♦♦ **SDM-HS75P** ($450), from Sony (www.sony.com):

It's short on bells and whistles—no built-in USB support, speakers, or ability to pivot—but the SDM-HS75P is a good choice for people who have limited desk space and who want a bright and shiny, well-designed display (macworld.com/0637).

Top Products are those we've recently reviewed in a comparison of like products. As new products become available, we will update the list. For longer reviews of these products and for other product recommendations, go to www.macworld.com/reviews.

IN THE MACWORLD LAB

Hardware Products We Tested This Month

COLOR INK-JET PRINTER



♦♦♦♦ **Photosmart 8250** ($199), from Hewlett-Packard (www.hp.com):

Though innovative, this six-color ink-jet printer's key features are a little disappointing. Its fast speed and durability are made less impressive by the quality of the printed output. But it's possible to get good-looking prints (macworld.com/0773).

COLOR LASER PRINTER

♦♦♦♦ **Magicolor 2450** ($699), from Konica Minolta (printer.konicaminolta.com):



Konica Minolta's latest Magicolor has nearly everything you could ask for in a sub-$1,000 color laser printer, including PostScript 3 support and accurate color. But it doesn't support Bonjour, and it's rather noisy (macworld.com/0782).

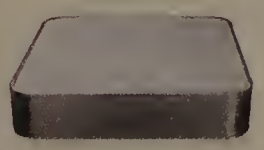
DIGITAL SLR CAMERA



♦♦♦♦ **D50** ($900), from Nikon (www.nikonusa.com):

This 6.1-megapixel digital SLR camera delivers excellent image quality and a decent feature set in a well-designed, comfortable body. It's missing some features found in Canon D-SLRs, but it'll be a slam-dunk if you already have Nikon lenses (macworld.com/0774).

DESKTOP FIREWIRE HARD DRIVE



♦♦♦♦ **miniStack 320GB 7200RPM** ($290), from Newer Technology (www.newertech.com):

This drive for the Mac mini offers two FireWire 400 and three USB ports, making it a hub, too (macworld.com/0580).

DESKTOP FIREWIRE HARD DRIVE



♦♦♦♦ **mini FireWire Companion Hard Drive** ($199), from LaCie (www.lacie.com):

An airflow-improving, four-corner crown on top of this device distinguishes it from other drives that are designed for the Mac mini (macworld.com/0580).

EXPERT TIPS FOR GETTING THE MOST OUT OF SAFARI AND FIREFOX, BUILDING BETTER BLOGS, AND CREATING PROFESSIONAL-LOOKING WEB PAGES

SPINNING A BETTER WEB

You'd think that, 15 years after the Web was invented, we'd know everything we need to know about browsing and building the Web. But we don't.

For one thing, browsers keep getting better. The latest version of Apple's Safari has plenty of new features. And though Mozilla's Firefox has only a fraction of Safari's market share, it's rapidly gaining converts, thanks to its seemingly endless customizability.

Meanwhile, a new Weblog is born every second—blogging has clearly gone mainstream. And each month brings a slew of new tools that can help you make your Web pages more beautiful, more interesting, and easier to use.

In the pages that follow are tips for using the latest versions of Safari and Firefox, advice on picking the Mac-compatible blogging tool that's right for you, and a guide to the best low-cost and free Web-building tools out there. Add all that to this issue's review of the latest browsers (page 28), and it's everything you need to know about the Web today.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN UELAND



SAFARI TIPS
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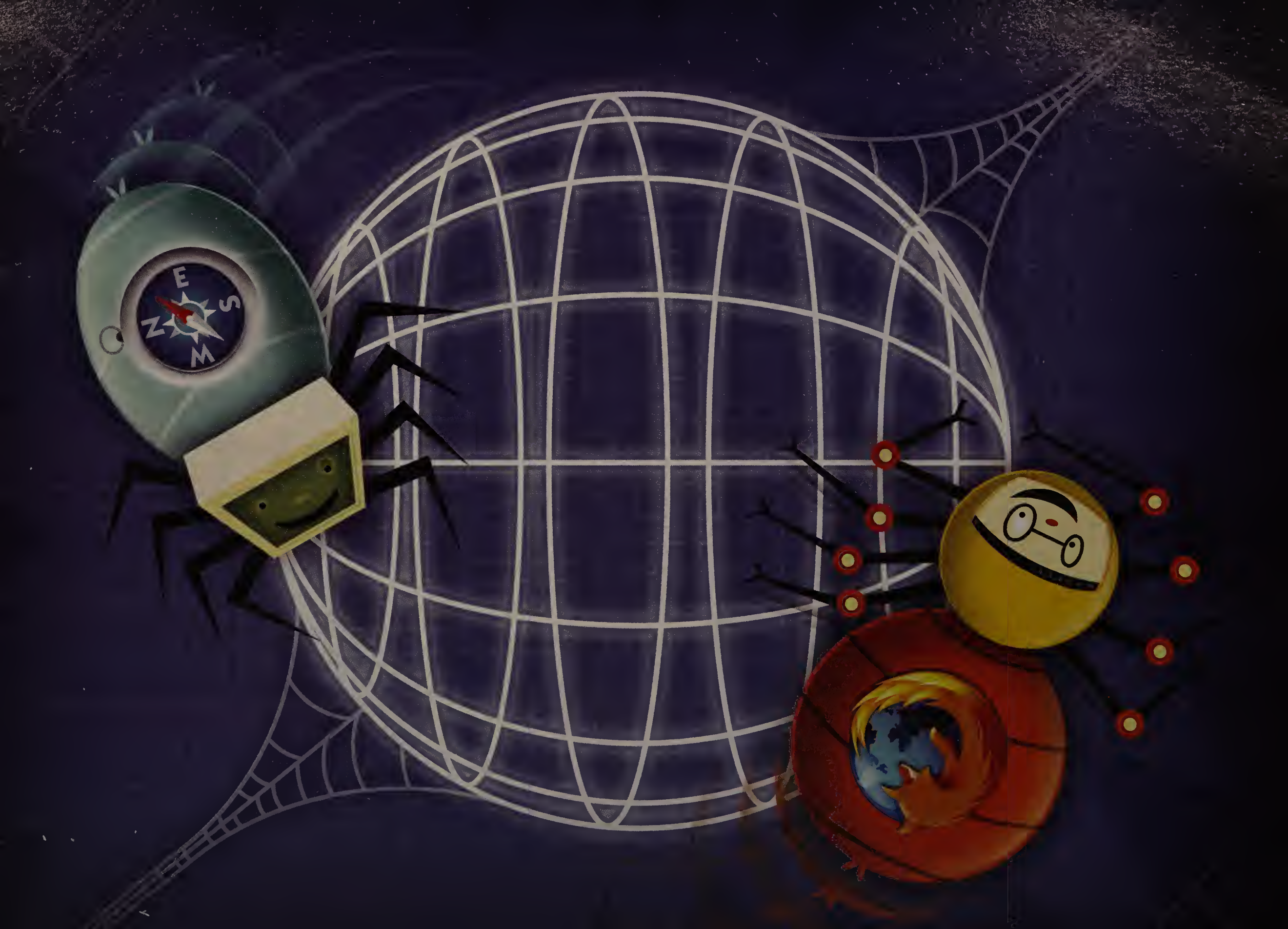
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THE SECRETS OF SAFARI 2.0

BY DAN FRAKES AND ROB GRIFFITHS



While Mac users now have several high-quality browsers to choose from, Safari is still their clear favorite. (To find out whether *Macworld* agrees with most Mac users, see our review on page 28.) But even Safari 2.0—the new version recently released as part of OS X 10.4—isn't quite perfect. Here are a few ways to make the most of Safari 2.0, as well as some tips on taking advantage of its lesser-known new features.

Send Web Pages

Before Tiger, Safari offered no simple way to send someone a link to a Web page. You had to copy the URL, switch to your e-mail program, create a new message, and paste the URL into it. (Sure, there were workarounds involving JavaScript bookmarklets—but for many users, these tricks were more hassle than they were worth.)

Safari 2.0 makes the process as simple as a keyboard shortcut: When you're viewing a Web page you want to send, just press ⌘-shift-I (or choose File: Mail Link To This Page). Your default e-mail app will open and create a new message that contains the URL and has the Web page's title in its subject field. Just fill in the recipient's address, add a note if you want, and click on Send.

If you use Apple's Mail, Safari also lets you send the *contents* of a Web page—to do so, you could use the ⌘-I keyboard shortcut (or File: Mail Contents Of This Page). But keep in mind that most people would rather receive just a URL than a huge e-mail message full of links and images. Practice restraint with the ⌘-I shortcut—stick to ⌘-shift-I instead.

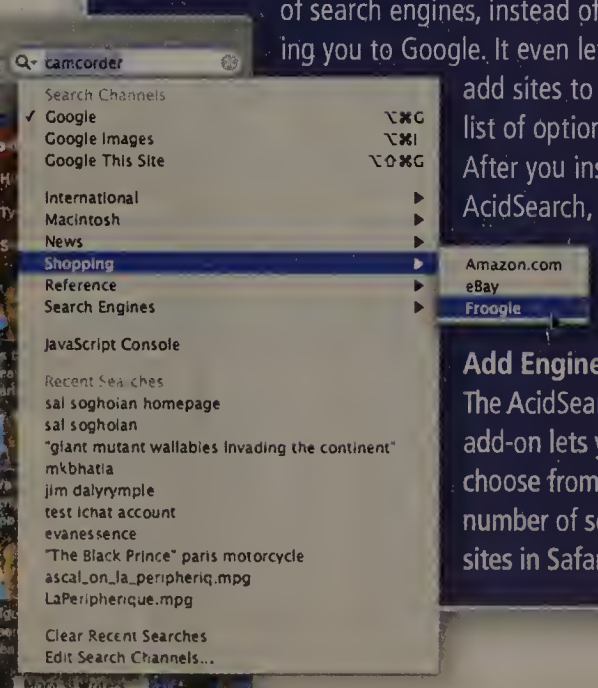
Add Web Images to iPhoto

Spot a nifty image while you're browsing your favorite blog and want to keep a copy of it in iPhoto? Control-click (or right-click) on it and choose Add Image To iPhoto Library. The image will be instantly imported into iPhoto.

EXTENDING SAFARI

Safari is a great browser all by itself, but third-party add-ons can help it do even more. Here are a few of our favorites. (You should find instructions for installing each add-on either on its developer's Web site or in the disk image that accompanies the download.)

AcidSearch Improving on Safari's search box, AcidSearch lets you choose from a number of search engines, instead of limiting you to Google. It even lets you add sites to the list of options. After you install AcidSearch, whenever you click on the magnifying-glass icon in Safari's search box, the drop-down menu lets you specify which search engine you want to use. (It'll stick with that one until you switch again.) There's even a handy Google This Site option, which runs a Google search on just the site you're currently browsing (free; macworld.com/0784).



Add Engines The AcidSearch add-on lets you choose from a number of search sites in Safari.

PDF Browser Plugin Safari 2.0 offers basic PDF-viewing features, and the latest version of Adobe Reader includes a PDF plug-in for most Web browsers. But if you view a lot of PDFs online, you'll want to install PDF Browser Plugin. It provides multiple layout options; lets you view different parts of a PDF simultaneously; supports annotation, forms, tables of contents, and links; and offers additional PDF printing options (home, education, or noncommercial use, free; commercial site license, $69; macworld.com/0785).

PithHelmet Using PithHelmet, you can limit the number of ads you see, set a privacy level on cookies, and control how many times animated GIF images play. You can even customize PithHelmet's ad-blocking rules to provide more or less protection ($10; macworld.com/0780).

Safari Buttons Wish Safari had a New Tab button in its toolbar? Now it can. First, add the Bug button to Safari's toolbar (via the View menu in Safari 1.X or via the Customize Address Bar dialog box in Safari 2.0) and then quit Safari. Now run the Safari Buttons installer. The next time you start Safari, that seldom-used Bug button will have become a useful New Tab button. You'll also be rewarded with new keyboard shortcuts that enable and disable image-free browsing. (Web surfing is much faster when you don't have to load pictures.) Just be sure to download the version of Safari Buttons that's right for Safari 2.0 (free; macworld.com/0787).

Safari Enhancer With Safari Enhancer installed, you'll be able to remove underlines from hyperlinks (or change the color of links), disable caches, change the search engine used

Save It for Later

In older versions of Safari, "saving" a Web page saved only its HTML source code; images and other embedded content were lost. Fortunately, Apple fixed this in Safari 2.0: the Save As command includes a Web Archive option, which saves nearly everything on the page, including images.

Search through History

Searching in Safari's Bookmarks view used to return results from both your bookmarks and your history. In Safari 2.0, you can search more selectively, choosing which of these collections you want to look through.

To search only your history, choose Bookmarks: Show All Bookmarks (or just click on the bookmark icon on the Bookmarks bar); then, in the Collections pane (on the left), click on History. Click on the magnifying-glass icon next to the search box at the bottom of the window, set the pop-up menu to In History, enter your search term, and press return. You can follow the same procedure to search only a specific bookmark collection.

Unfortunately, Safari can't search the actual content of the sites in your history;



Where Are You From? Wonder where a downloaded file originally came from? The Info window's Spotlight Comments field will tell you.

it looks for only the information in the two displayed columns—Bookmark and Address. If you want to search the contents of Web pages you've visited, check out St. Clair Software's $20 HistoryHound (●●●½; macworld.com/0828).

Discover a Download's Origins

To find out where you got a file you downloaded with Safari, select the file in the Finder and then choose File: Get Info (or press ⌘-I). The Info window's Spotlight Comments field will display the URL of the page you downloaded the file from (see "Where Are You From?").

Import Bookmarks from Other Browsers

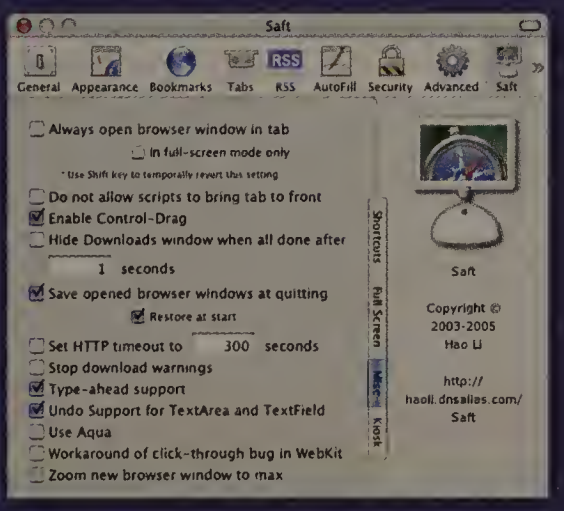
Want to import a bunch of bookmarks from The Omni Group's OmniWeb, Mozilla Firefox, or Microsoft Internet Explorer into Safari 2.0? Just choose File: Import Bookmarks, navigate to the other browser's bookmark file, and click on Import. When the import is finished, Safari will switch to its Bookmarks view, and you'll see a new bookmark collection—named Imported *Date*—that contains the imported bookmarks. You can then move those bookmarks into folders and/or Safari's Bookmarks bar, as you see fit.

The challenge is finding the bookmark file to import. If you use Internet Explorer, it's a file called Favorites.html, which is in */your user folder*/Library/Preferences/Explorer. For Firefox, look for the bookmarks.html file in */your user folder*/Library/Application Support/Firefox/Pro-

by Safari's toolbar search box, and even switch Safari's interface from brushed metal to Aqua. Be sure to download the version for Tiger; the developer also offers versions of Safari Enhancer for older versions of OS X and Safari (free; macworld.com/0788).

SafariSource If you frequently view the source code of Web pages, SafariSource is a must-have: it adds syntax coloring to Safari's source view, making it much easier to read. This is a little thing that makes a world of difference (free; macworld.com/0789).

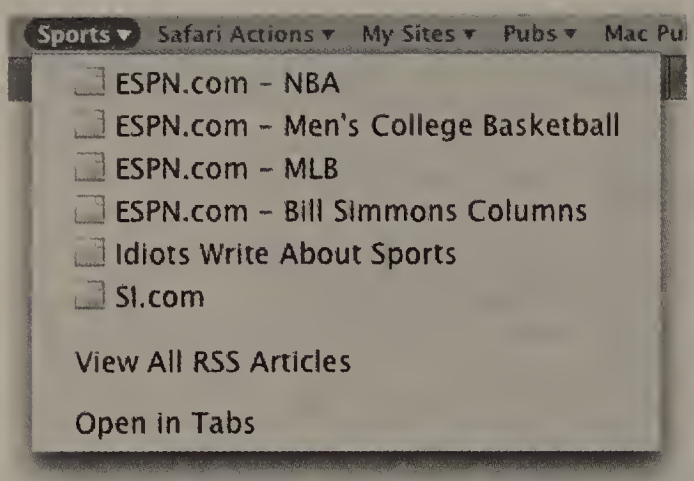
Saft The big kahuna of Safari add-ons, Saft has more than 25 features: It lets you scroll pages by holding down the control key and moving the mouse, automatically save opened tabs when you quit Safari so they're open when you relaunch, create a bookmark folder from a set of tabs, rearrange tabs via drag and drop, and more. You can even specify an external editor, such as TextEdit, to use when entering text in Web forms ($12; macworld.com/0790).



Saft Landing From this tabbed preference pane, Saft lets you customize more than 25 features, including mouse navigation and tab arrangement.

Sogudi Instead of beefing up the Google search box, Sogudi improves on Safari's search abilities with search shortcuts. In the address box, you enter a special site abbreviation and the terms you want to search for, and then press return. For example, typing `hint safari download` will return macosxhints.com tips about downloading with Safari. Sogudi includes 14 predefined shortcuts, and you can easily add your own. It also does more than just make searching faster: Want a shortcut for the Crazy Apple Rumors Site? Use Sogudi's preference pane to create a new shortcut (CAR, for instance) for www.crazyapplerumors.com. Then, instead of entering that long URL, you can just type `CAR`. You can even view Unix `man` pages, with the useful `man:` shortcut (free; macworld.com/0791).

Taboo Ever accidentally lose a bunch of Web sites you were browsing because you closed a Safari window with multiple open tabs? Never again: Install Taboo, and whenever you close a Safari window, it will display a dialog box that asks whether you really want to close all the tabs. Such frustration prevention should really be built into Safari. For now, at least, you can rely on Taboo (free; www.ocdev.com).



All the News To view multiple RSS feeds in one window, collect them all in a single folder and then choose View All RSS Articles.

files/*string*.default (where *string* is a random string of characters that differs for every user). OmniWeb's bookmark file, Bookmarks.html, is in */your user folder/* Library/Application Support/OmniWeb.

Combine RSS Feeds

Safari's new RSS-viewing features are a handy way to track your favorite sites. But you may not realize that you can view multiple RSS feeds in one window. To do so, first create a folder in your Bookmarks bar (open the Bookmarks view, click on Bookmarks Bar in the Collections column, and then click on the plus-sign button [+] at the bottom of the Bookmark column; you can name the new folder anything you like). Then, one at a time, open the RSS feeds you want to add to the view. For each feed, add a bookmark to your new bookmark folder.

After this one-time setup, simply click on the folder in the Bookmarks bar and choose View All RSS Articles from the resulting menu (see "All the News"). All the articles from all the feeds in the folder will be displayed in a single window; the name of the source feed will be displayed next to each article's title.

Create a Personalized Clipping Service

If you view an RSS feed (or group of feeds), you can use the Search Articles command to find articles that contain a particular word or phrase. Even better, you can bookmark the search results to create a live search feed. Safari will then keep an eye on the included feeds, watching for *new* articles containing your search terms, and it'll notify you when it finds something—*voilà:* a customized RSS feed.

Disable PDF Viewing

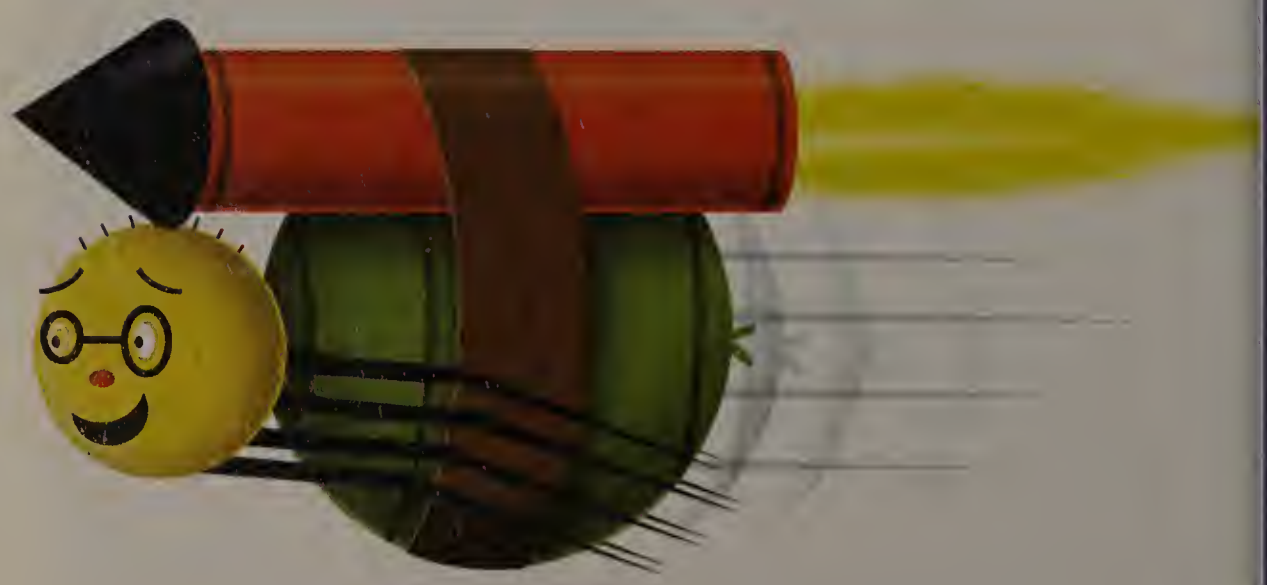
If you click on a link to a PDF document in Safari 2.0, the browser automatically loads the PDF in its current window. If you'd rather view the PDF in Preview or Acrobat, or download it, you have to wait for it to load and then manually save it to your hard drive.

But you can make Safari 2.0 treat PDFs the way Safari 1.X did (that is, save them to your default download folder). Here's how: Quit Safari, launch Terminal, and type the following:

```
defaults write com.apple.Safari
WebKitOmitPDFSupport -bool YES
```

Press return and then relaunch Safari. It will now download PDF documents to your hard drive. You can revert to Safari 2.0's default PDF behavior by entering this command with `NO` instead of `YES`.

DAN FRAKES is *Macworld*'s senior writer. ROB GRIFFITHS is one of *Macworld*'s senior editors.



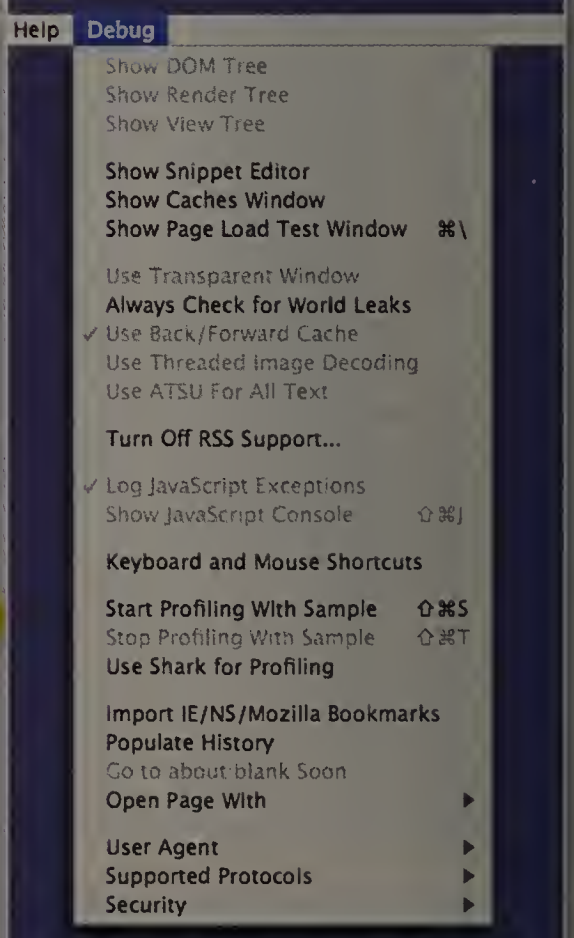
DEBUGGING SAFARI

Most Safari users never see the Debug menu. Designed to help programmers and Web coders, it has several features that regular users can use too.

To enable the Debug menu, quit Safari, launch Terminal, enter `defaults write com.apple.Safari IncludeDebugMenu 1`, and press return. When you relaunch Safari, you should see the Debug menu to the right of the Help menu (see "Hidden Menu").

Some of its interesting options are Show Caches Window (which lets you view and/or clear Safari's various cache files), Show Page Load Test Window (for timing the loading of Web pages), Keyboard And Mouse Shortcuts (a huge list of Safari keyboard shortcuts), and User Agent (by setting this option to Windows MSIE 6.0 or Netscape 7.0, you *may* be able to gain access to sites that don't normally work in Safari).

If you ever tire of this new menu, quit Safari and repeat the Terminal command but replace the numeral 1 with 0 (zero).

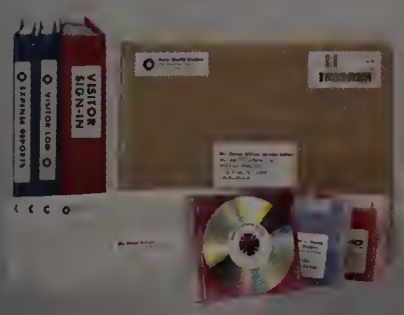


Hidden Menu Safari's Debug menu is hidden by default. But once you enable it, you'll find all kinds of interesting tools.

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THE POWER USER'S GUIDE TO FIREFOX

BY JOE KISSELL

Mozilla Firefox is rapidly catching on with Mac users, and for good reason: It's free, fast, and flexible, and it does an outstanding job of displaying most Web pages. (This cross-platform browser is also increasingly popular among Windows users, largely because of its excellent pop-up–blocking features). And beneath Firefox's simple interface are some surprisingly powerful features. The following tips will help you maximize this up-and-comer's potential. (All these tips were tested in Firefox 1.0.6 but should also work in newer versions.)

Take Advantage of Tabs

Like most modern browsers, Firefox lets you open multiple Web pages as tabs within a single window. But it sports some handy tab-navigation tools you may not know about:

> To move to the next tab, press control–page down or control-tab. To move to the previous tab, press control–page up or control-shift-tab.

> To save the addresses of all open tabs at once (so you can easily return to the same set), choose Bookmarks: Bookmark This Page (or press ⌘-D). Select the Bookmark All Tabs In A Folder option, enter a name, and click on Add. Firefox will create a bookmark folder with the name you selected. To reopen that set of tabs, navigate to that folder in your Bookmarks menu and choose Open In Tabs.

> You can set up Firefox so it opens multiple Web sites (each in its own tab) when you click on the Home button. Just go to the sites you want it to open, choose Firefox: Preferences, click on the General icon, and click on Use Current Pages (under Home Page).



Fast Finds After a simple preference change, you can type any text into Firefox's search bar to see matching text highlighted instantly.

Find as You Type

To find text within the current Web page, press ⌘-F (as in most Mac apps) or the / (slash) key. Instead of opening up a separate Find window, Firefox opens a search bar at the bottom of the window (see "Fast Finds"). As soon as it finds a match, it highlights the found text. To make searching even faster and easier, turn on Firefox's Find As You Type feature. To do so, choose Firefox: Preferences, click on the Advanced icon, and select the Begin Finding When You Begin Typing option (it's located in the Accessibility section). Now the search bar will appear and Firefox will start searching as soon as you type any character—no ⌘-F or / required.

Assign Keywords to Bookmarks

If you have a lot of bookmarks, finding the one you want can be tedious—especially if you've organized them into a bunch of nested folders. You can avoid this tedium by assigning keywords to bookmarks that you use often. That way, you can zip to that site with just a few keystrokes. For example, to assign a keyword to www.apple.com, choose Bookmarks: Manage Bookmarks, select the bookmark for that site, and click on the Properties button in the toolbar. (Or you can control-click [or right-click] on the bookmark and select Properties from the contextual menu.) Enter a short text string (such as `ap`) in the Keyword field and click on OK. The next time you want to visit Apple's Web site, type `ap` in the Address field and press return.

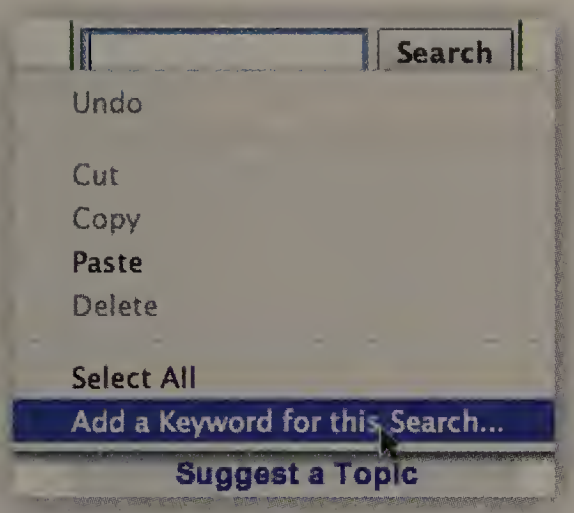
Assign Keywords to Searches

You can also use keywords to make searching easier. Go to a Web page that has a search box. Control-click (or right-click) on that box and choose Add A Keyword For This Search from the pop-up menu (see "Keys to the Search"). In the resulting dialog box, enter a name in the Name field and a short keyword in the Keyword field, and click on Add. Then, to search that site, type the keyword followed by your search term in Firefox's Location bar (not the search box). For example, if I assigned *it* to my own

Interesting Thing of the Day site, I could then type `it cheese` in the Location bar to search for cheese-related articles on that site. By the way, Firefox has a built-in smart keyword for looking up definitions at Dictionary.com: just go to the Location bar, enter `dict` followed by a space and the word you want to look up, and press return.

Change Your Theme

While extensions change Firefox's capabilities (see "Extending Firefox"), themes change its look-and-feel—its icons, fonts, colors, button shapes, and other interface elements (but not the Web pages themselves). To add a theme, choose Tools: Themes and click on the Get More Themes link at the bottom of the window. You install themes the same way you add extensions. To activate a theme, click on the third icon from the left at the bottom of the Themes window (its name and appearance change, depending on the theme you're using), and then restart Firefox.



Keys to the Search After you assign a keyword to a search box on nearly any Web site, you can type that keyword and your search term in Firefox's Location bar to find what you're looking for.

Master the Keyboard

If you like to keep your fingers on the keyboard, you'll like Firefox's extensive keyboard shortcuts—many of which do not appear in its menus. (For an extensive list, see macworld.com/0792.) My favorites:

> Turn caret browsing on/off: press F7. This feature puts an insertion point on screen, letting you select Web text using the keyboard.

> Select the next or previous search engine: press control–up arrow or control–down arrow when the insertion point is in the search box.

JOE KISSELL is the author of many e-books about Mac OS X (www.takecontrolbooks.com). His secret identity is Curator of Interesting Things for InterestingThingOfTheDay.com.

ABOUT ABOUT:CONFIG

If you type `about:config` into the Firefox Location bar and press return, you'll see a list of hundreds of options that you can modify right from the browser window (see "About This Browser")—and most of them can't be adjusted in Firefox's Preferences menu. They range from the way your mouse works to obscure network settings. (To get a full list of these options, check out macworld.com/0793.)

The about:config window displays the name, status, type (Boolean, integer, or string), and value for each option. To change a Boolean (true or false) value, double-click on it; for other options, double-click on the row and then enter a new setting. You can control-click (or right-click) on a value to reset it; from the resulting contextual menu, you can also add, copy, or modify values.

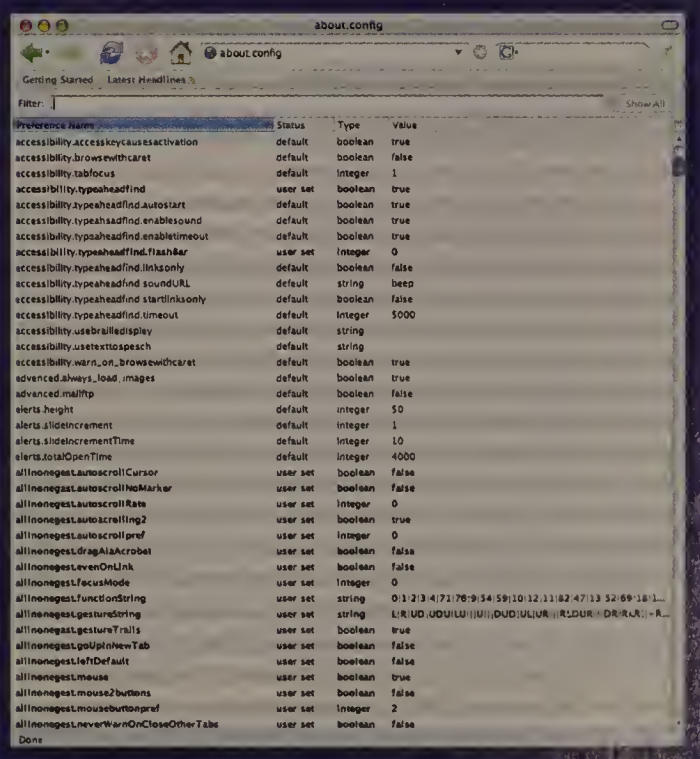
For example, you can use the about:config page to activate a feature called pipelining, which sends multiple HTTP requests at once. With fast Internet connections, this can dramatically speed up page loading, as different page elements can load at the same time. To turn on pipelining, double-click on network.http.pipelining to set its value to true; do the same for network.http.proxy.pipelining. Next, double-click on network.http.pipelining.maxrequests and enter the number of simultaneous requests you'd like to send (try entering `8` as a starting point).

You can also add new options if they aren't already on the list. For example, to block Flash-based sites from opening pop-up windows, control-click (or right-click) anywhere on the page and choose New: Integer from the contextual menu. Enter `privacy.popups.disable from plugins` as the preference name. For the value, enter `2`.

Here's another option you can add: By default, Firefox waits 250 milliseconds before beginning to display a page (allowing more of the page to load into memory first). You may be able to speed up page rendering by removing this delay. Control-click (or right-click) anywhere on the about:config page and choose New: Integer from the contextual menu. Enter `nglayout.initialpaint.delay` as the preference name and `0` as its value. The amount of improvement (if any) will depend on the speed of your machine and Internet connection; try it out and see if it helps.

But heed two warnings before you dive in: First, some of the about:config settings have no effect in OS X. Second, the about:config window gives you a lot of power, with which you can cause a lot of damage (including utterly disabling Firefox). So be careful. Before you do anything else, back up the Firefox folder in */your user folder/* Library/Application Support.

Changes you make will take effect when you restart Firefox. To undo a change you made, control-click (or right-click) on the setting and choose Reset from the contextual menu. Firefox will return the setting to its default value; if it was a setting you added, it will be given a blank value and will disappear when you quit Firefox.



About This Browser To see hundreds of hidden Firefox preferences that you can modify, enter `about:config` in the Location bar.

EXTENDING FIREFOX

Firefox fans love the browser's extensions—third-party apps that let you add all sorts of useful features, such as an RSS reader and CSS editing, to the browser. Firefox also works with other add-ons—including themes and alternative search engines—that make it a power surfer's dream browser. There are hundreds of free add-ons (and more appear every day); some of my favorites follow.

To add an extension, choose Tools: Extensions and click on the Get More Extensions link at the bottom of the window. On the page that appears, find the extension you want, and then click on the Install Now link. Verify that the site hosting the download is one you trust (such as ftp.mozilla.org), and click on the Install Now button. Most extensions take effect only after you restart Firefox. Adding a new theme is pretty much the same; just choose Tools: Themes instead, and go from there.

Some of the add-ons described here follow other installation procedures; those exceptions have been noted.

Some extensions aren't compatible with Tiger. And because third parties develop these extensions, conflicts can occur. If you change your mind or encounter a nonfunctioning extension, you can (in most cases) remove it by clicking on the Uninstall button (the leftmost button at the bottom of the Extensions window) and restarting Firefox. A few particularly stubborn add-ons may not disappear unless you create a new profile. (That's an all-purpose troubleshooting step that can solve many Firefox problems. For details, see macworld.com/0794.)

Brushed Theme I prefer Safari's brushed-metal toolbars, tabs, and buttons to Firefox's more generic-looking controls. The Brushed theme, from elvo, doesn't exactly match the look-and-feel of Safari, but it comes close—and it makes Firefox feel significantly more Mac-like.

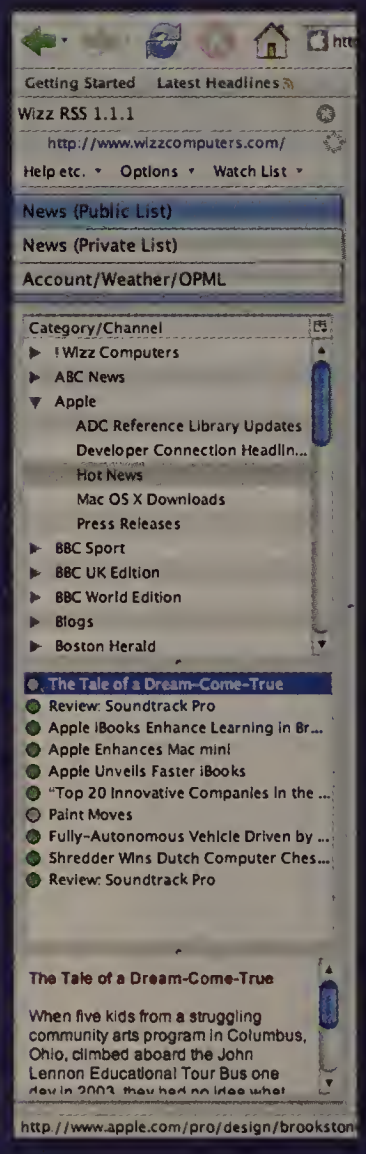
Firefox G5-Optimized Builds It isn't exactly an add-on, but a G5-optimized build should be at the top of your must-get list if your Mac has a G5 processor. Neil Lee provides free builds, optimized for G5 Macs, of each Firefox release; they provide noticeably faster all-around operation (macworld.com/0795).

Firefoxy Mac users trying out Firefox frequently complain that the controls in Web-page forms (radio buttons, check boxes, and so on) don't have the same look-and-feel that they have in Safari. But you can spiff up those controls with Firefoxy. Drag and drop Firefox.app onto Firefoxy, and Firefoxy will replace some of the stock graphics with new, more elegant ones (see "In Good Form"). To undo the change, just drag and drop the app onto Firefoxy again (macworld.com/0796).

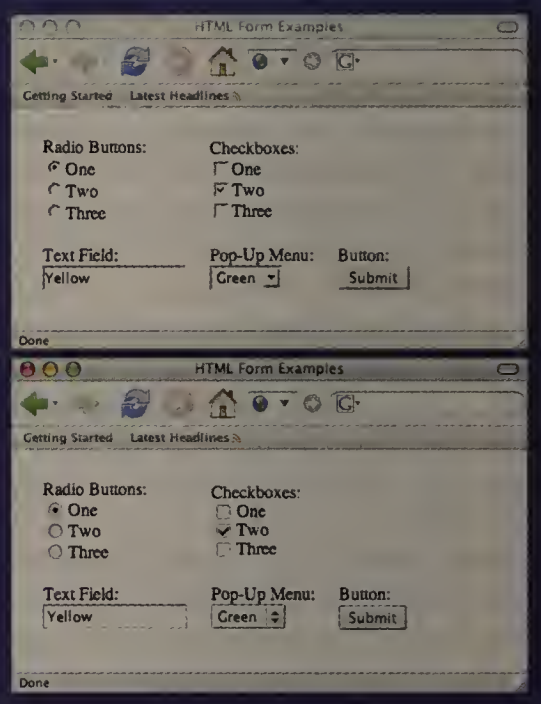
FoxyTunes If you want to control iTunes from within Firefox, try FoxyTunes. It adds a series of tiny iTunes control buttons to the status bar at the bottom of the Firefox window; they let you play, pause, go to the next or previous track, adjust the volume, display the current song name, and more.

ScrapBook If you do a lot of online research, ScrapBook will quickly become your favorite extension. It lets you save all or part of a Web page—including graphics, movies, audio, and other linked pages—to an archive that you can search from Firefox's sidebar. You can annotate saved pages, highlight them, and remove elements from them; sort, backup, and export your saved documents; and much more.

SessionSaver As its name implies, the remarkable SessionSaver extension saves the state of your browser—every tab and window, every half-filled Web form, every scroll-bar position (*everything*)—when you quit the browser, and then it returns the browser to that state upon relaunch. Even if Firefox crashed or if you force-quit it, SessionSaver will put everything back the way it was.



Nobody Beats the Wizz The Wizz RSS News Reader extension puts a full-featured RSS browser in Firefox's sidebar.



In Good Form After you modify Firefox with Firefoxy, elements in Web forms look more Mac-like (bottom).

StumbleUpon After you sign up for a StumbleUpon account, this simple but incredibly addictive extension adds a StumbleUpon toolbar to Firefox. Click on the toolbar's Stumble button to go to a random Web site devoted to any of the hundreds of topics that match your interests. It also lets you give sites "thumbs-up" or "thumbs-down" ratings; these ratings determine which sites appear when other Web surfers with similar interests use StumbleUpon.

Tab X and miniT If you want Firefox to look and act more like Safari, add the Tab X extension. It does just one tiny thing: it puts an individual close button on each tab, replacing the single (and counterintuitive) close button at the right end of the tab bar. (Too bad it doesn't put the close button on the left side of the tab, where it belongs.) For even more flexibility, you should also add miniT, which lets you rearrange the order of your tabs simply by dragging them to a new location.

Wizz RSS News Reader and Sage Firefox has minimal RSS capabilities. You can click on an icon at the bottom of an RSS-enabled site's window to add a bookmark item that displays recent headlines. But you can't mark an article as read or unread, see previews of posts, download Podcasts, or do many of the other things full-fledged RSS browsers let you do. But several extensions can bulk up Firefox's RSS tools. I prefer Wizz RSS News Reader (see "Nobody Beats the Wizz"), which includes Podcast support, along with other bells and whistles. However, its interface is a bit awkward. For a simpler, more elegant approach (but without Podcast support), try Sage.

Built-in Network Interface

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THE BEST BLOGGING TOOLS FOR THE MAC

BY DORI SMITH

According to one recent estimate, a new Weblog is created every second. Everyone from your geeky IT coworker to your Uncle Marvin has one already. So why don't you? If you've got something—*anything*—you want to share with the rest of the world, a blog is the place to do it. And it's never been easier to jump on the blogging bandwagon. The tools and services required are inexpensive (and often free) and as simple (or as powerful) as you want.

Right now, the blogging tools most popular with Mac users are TypePad and Movable Type, both from Six Apart; Blogspot and Blogger, from Blogger (now part of Google); and WordPress, an open-source tool.

These five tools range in power and complexity from simple-but-limited (TypePad, Blogger, and Blogspot) to do-pretty-much-anything-but-may-require-coding (WordPress). Movable Type is somewhere between these two extremes.

Two of them—TypePad and Blogspot—also provide the hosting services you need in order to put your blog on the Web. The other three require that you arrange the hosting yourself (though that's not especially hard to do).

Here are the tools I'd recommend for different sorts of bloggers.

Hosts with the Most

If you've never set up and maintained a Web page, you may want to start your blogging career with one of the two hosted services, TypePad or Blogspot. Simply put, this means that your blog will have the address *example*.typepad.com or *example*.blogspot.com.

TypePad Of the two, TypePad (www.typepad.com) is more straightforward: with it, you can have a new blog online within a few minutes. Click on a few buttons in your browser, enter your credit card number, and choose a design, and your site is live. But even with all that simplicity, TypePad offers some decent extras. It allows readers to comment on your posts, and it lets you categorize your posts by topic (or whatever) for easier navigation. Like all the services mentioned here, it supports XML syndication (so readers can keep track of your blog in their RSS news readers).

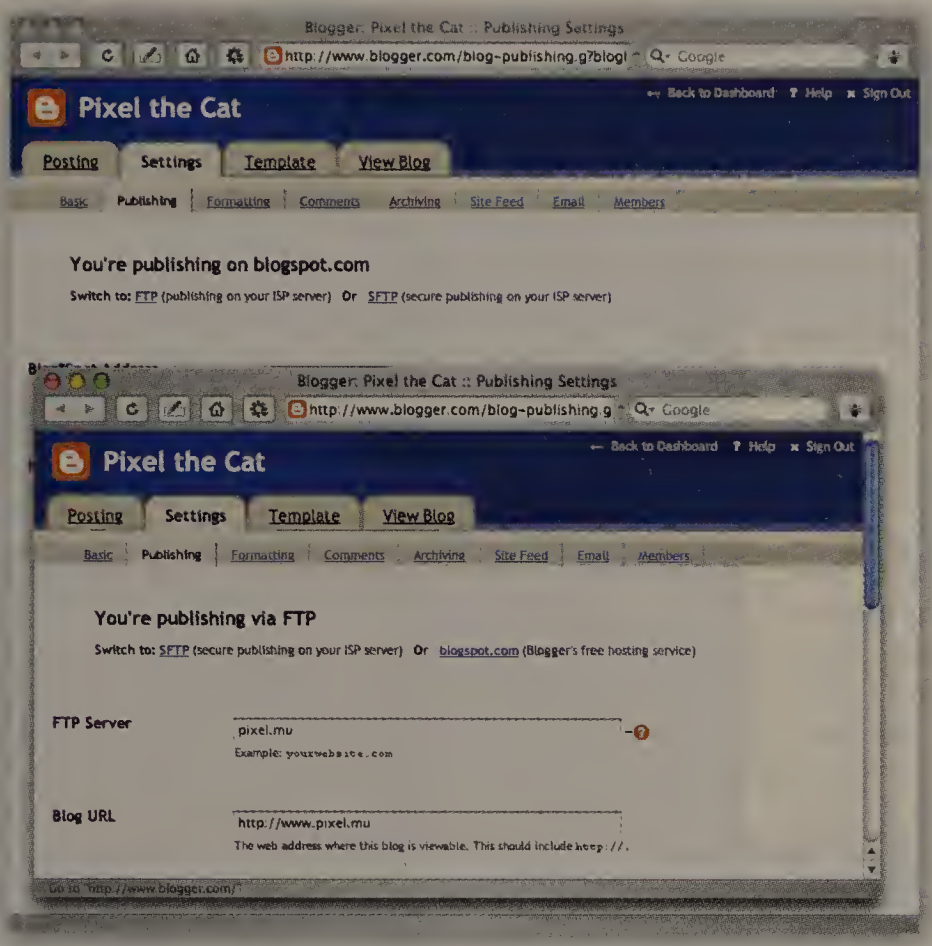
But TypePad has drawbacks. For one, it's the only blogging service described here that doesn't offer a free version. You can try it out for 30 days; after that, you'll have to pay $5 to $15 per month (or $50 to $150 a year), depending on the service level you choose (Basic, Plus, or Pro), to keep adding to your site. At the Basic level, TypePad is pretty limited unless you know some HTML. For example, its Mixed Media Layout designs look like promising ways to share photos and even video—but you can't use them without learning some HTML tags. The Plus and Pro accounts offer more flexibility and power, letting multiple authors contribute or letting you run multiple blogs yourself. But, again, you have to pay for the increased level of service.

Blogspot For a simple solution that doesn't cost money, check out Blogspot (www.blogspot.com). If you just want to enter plain text and upload images, it's got everything you need and doesn't require any HTML knowledge. Just start an account, name your blog, choose a template, and start posting. You can adjust your blog's settings, and you can even tweak its layout (a bit), without digging into any code. But to go further,

even to do something as simple as change the links in your sidebar from the default ones (links to "Edit Me" are sure signs of a blogging newbie), you'll need to learn some code.

Serving Yourself

The other three tools (Blogger, Movable Type, and WordPress) let you put your blog on whatever Web host you want. The most immediate advantage of this is that you get to use your own domain name, instead of a lengthy URL that includes the name of your service. Beyond that cosmetic effect, using your own host with Movable Type or WordPress means that you're running the blogging software on your own server, not someone else's, so you have complete control over your blog. However, it also means that you'll have to fix problems yourself if any occur. (For more on hosting, see "Blogging Tips and Tricks.")



Blogger Upgrade To move from Blogspot to Blogger, you just click on the Switch To FTP link and fill out a form.

Blogger Of the three tools that come without hosting, Blogger (www.blogger.com) is by far the simplest. In fact, the only difference between Blogger and Blogspot is Blogspot's hosting service. Otherwise, they supply the same tools for building a blog and posting to it. If you're using Blogspot and want to move to a host of your own, the transition is easy: just click on the Switch To FTP link and fill out a form, and your existing blog will be moved (see "Blogger Upgrade"). With other blogging tools, you'll need to export and import your posts. Because it's basically identical to Blogspot, without the convenience of the hosting service, Blogger has been waning in popularity lately.

Movable Type Like TypePad, Movable Type (www.movabletype.org) costs money. Unlike TypePad, it has a free version that lets you (and only you—no multiple authors) run as many as three blogs; however, the drawback to the free service is that it does not

BLOGGING TOOLS COMPARED

Which Mac blogging tool is right for you? While they'll all get you online without too much trouble, some small (but important) differences set them apart.

	HOSTED				NOT HOSTED				
	Blogspot	TypePad Basic	TypePad Plus	TypePad Pro	Blogger	Movable Type	Movable Type Basic	Movable Type Unlimited	WordPress
Comments	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Categories	○	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●
Full HTML Editing	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●
RSS/Atom Support	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Multiple Blogs	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Multiple Authors	●	○	○	●	●	○	●	●	●
Image Uploading	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Automatic Thumbnail Creation	○	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●
Cost	free	$5/month or $50/year	$9/month or $90/year	$15/month or $150/year	free	free	$70[A]	$100[A]	free
Drive Space Provided	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○
Custom Domain Names	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● = yes ○ = no. [A]Personal licenses terms vary for commercial, educational, and nonprofit licensees.

include customer support. The $70 Basic version supports as many as five authors and unlimited blogs; the $100 package supports unlimited authors and blogs. Note, also, that Movable Type is now offering blog hosting through partners: Pair.com (a well-known hosting company), for example, sells Movable Type blog hosting for $6 a month on top of its standard fees. In the long run, it's the most expensive option of them all, but it's by far the simplest if you need a high-end tool.

Whichever license you choose, Movable Type is substantially more powerful than TypePad. While it lets you easily create multiple Weblogs (by clicking on Create New Weblog and filling out an online form), it also supports advanced Web technologies such as dynamic publishing. Because it's written in Perl and the source code is available to anyone who wants to play with it, there are many third-party plug-ins that can enhance your site. In part because of that sophistication, initial installation of Movable Type can be difficult, particularly for Web newbies.

WordPress By contrast, WordPress (www.wordpress.org) is known for its easy setup. But at the same time, it's the most powerful of these blogging tools. While WordPress is accessible enough for intermediate bloggers, advanced Web authors will really appreciate it.

WordPress is written in PHP and is an open-source app, so its code is freely accessible. And an active developer community works constantly to improve and enhance it. If you want something unusual, there's a good chance that somebody has already written it (see "WordPress Plus"); if not, you're welcome to write it yourself. WordPress's biggest drawback is that if you want to run more than one blog, you'll need to install additional copies of the app. And like so many other open-source tools, WordPress's documentation is in sore need of some volunteer help.

POWERED BY MAC

What do the pros use? Here's the software that runs a few of our favorite Mac-centric blogs.

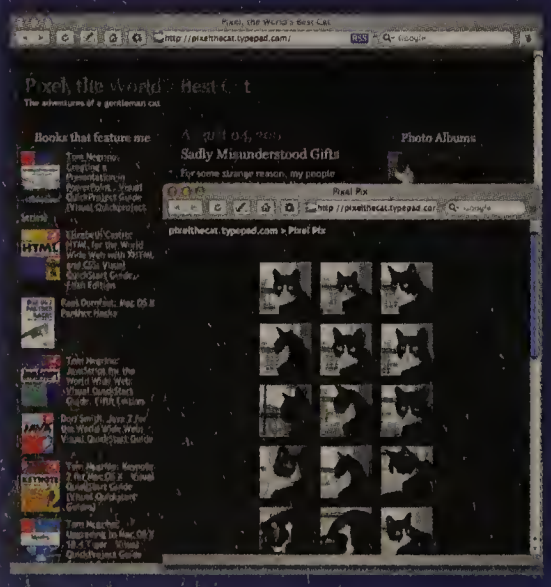
SITE	URL	BLOGGING SOFTWARE
43 Folders	www.43folders.com	TypePad
Andy Ihnatko's Yellowtext	www.cwob.com/yellowtext	custom
Backup Brain	www.backupbrain.com	Movable Type
Complete Digital Photography	www.completedigitalphotography.com	WordPress
Crazy Apple Rumors Site	www.crazyapplerumors.com	Movable Type
Daring Fireball	www.daringfireball.com	Movable Type
Engadget	www.engadget.com	Blogsmith (proprietary)
Mac OS X Hints	www.macosxhints.com	Geeklog
MacMinute	www.macminute.com	custom
macosXrumors	www.macosxrumors.com	WordPress
Mac News Network	www.macnn.com	WordPress
mrbarrett.com	www.mrbarrett.com	Movable Type
The Unofficial Apple Weblog	www.tuaw.com	Blogsmith (proprietary)

BLOGGING FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

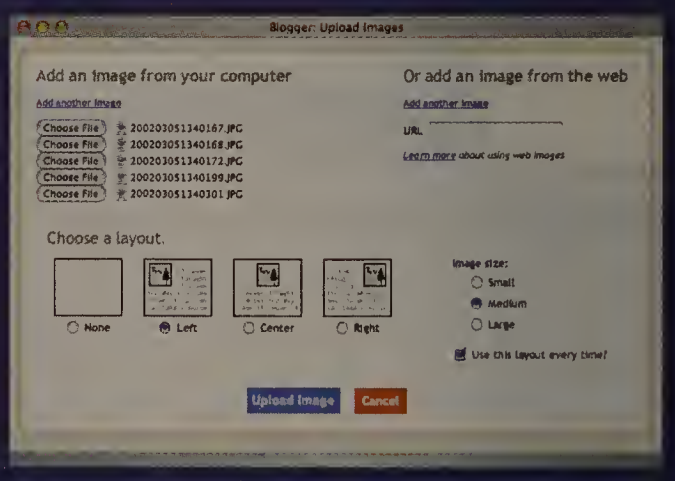
If all you want to do is share snapshots, you can use a photo-sharing site such as Flickr (www.flickr.com). But if you want to supplement those snaps with text, you'll be better off with a photo-friendly blogging tool.

All the major blogging tools will let you show off your photos in a small blog. TypePad delivers a lot for minimal effort (see "Online Album Made Easy"). Its album-publishing tool lets you upload a zipped folder of images. The tool then opens the zipped file and puts the images into a folder that you name. It creates thumbnails of each image; you can then go in and add a caption to each photo. Unfortunately, even though Movable Type is related to TypePad, many of these features haven't yet migrated to Movable Type (as of version 3.2, which was just released at press time).

Blogspot and Blogger aren't there yet either. They let you upload a maximum of five images at a time (see "Five at a Time"), and neither creates thumbnails. WordPress handles photos the same way it handles so much else: with a plug-in. There's a wide variety of choices, so you'll have to experiment and see which one works best for you.



Online Album Made Easy All the major blogging tools make it easy to post photos, but TypePad makes it the easiest.



Five at a Time If you want to run a photo-centric blog, Blogger and Blogspot don't make it easy: They let you upload only five images at a time.

BLOGGING TIPS AND TRICKS

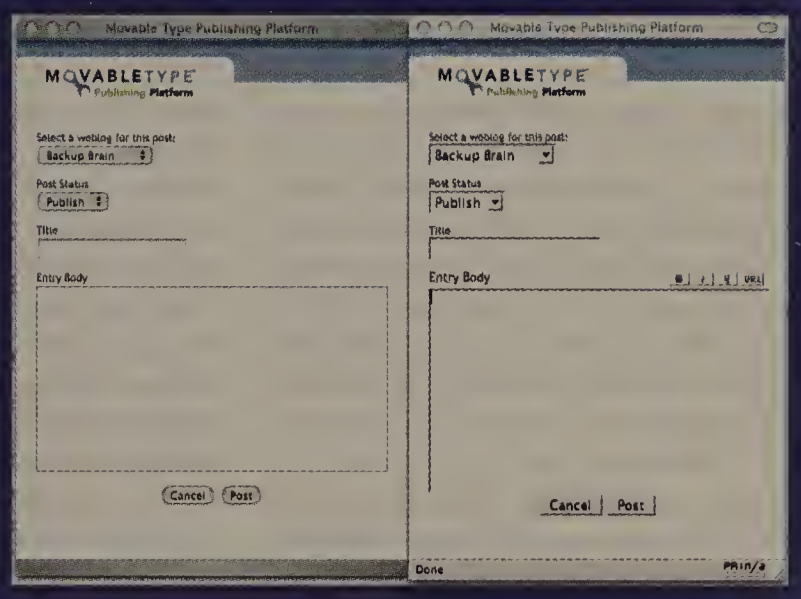
So you've chosen and downloaded the Weblog tool that's right for you, and now you're ready to start blogging. Here are a few pointers to get you started off on the right foot.

> Why can't writing text for a Weblog be like writing text in a word processor? If you'd rather just choose styles, such as bold and italic, than remember tags, such as and , you can—if your browser will let you. In OS X, you'll need Firefox (see "Writing with Movable Type"). All the blogging apps mentioned here offer additional editing tools in Firefox that aren't available in Safari (yet).

> TypePad puts some of its most useful functions in its sidebars, so be sure to check them out. You can create lists of sites, books, music, or photos and add them to your blog's sidebar. You can also add a calendar of posts and other fun tidbits (such as your iChat status). And you do all this by filling in online forms—no HTML required.

> You don't need your own domain name in order to host your own site with Movable Type or WordPress. But you do need an ISP or hosting company that gives you FTP access and the ability to run your own server-side applications. This leaves out .Mac users. If you want a blog on your .Mac account, check out iBlog, from Lifli Software (macworld.com/0797).

> Want the convenience of hosting but also want to use your own domain name? TypePad's two higher levels of service (Plus and Pro) let you do domain mapping—your site is on TypePad's servers, but anyone can get to it by entering your domain name or surfing to your site. And I know some very technology-savvy people who have chosen TypePad because they don't want to have to worry about regularly installing the latest software fixes—they've found that letting Six Apart deal with those headaches is worth the annual fee. If you modify the templates and use your own domain name, people might not even realize that you're using TypePad.



Writing with Movable Type In Firefox (right), Movable Type provides text-style buttons. In Safari (left), it doesn't.

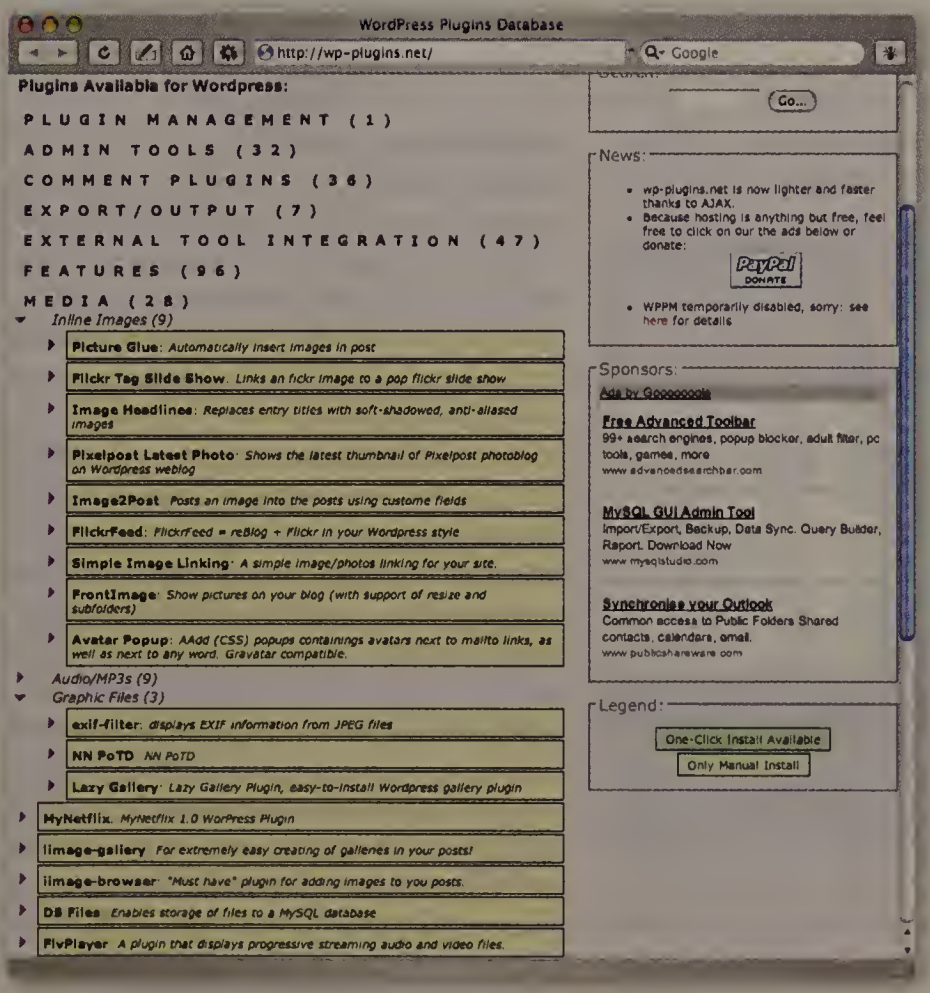
> A personal license for two people to jointly author a single noncommercial Movable Type Weblog starts at $70. Instead of purchasing that license, consider the Six Apart Professional Network (sixapart.com/pronet). It's free to join, and it comes with a free commercial license.

Get Blogging

In choosing the right blogging tool, it all comes down to what works best for you. Do you just want to dip your toes into the blogging waters? Try Blogspot. It's the perfect (and a very common) place to start, it's free, and, because it's hosted, you don't have to worry about maintaining it. Want more functionality without the hosting pains? Go for one of the paid TypePad accounts. Want to put several blogs on that unused domain name you've had all these years? Try Movable Type. Want to dive into the code and tweak your blog to your heart's content (and help out the open-source community at the same time)? Then you're a WordPress user.

No matter which blogging tool seems best for you, time's a-wasting. In the time you spent reading this article, 600 new blogs were created.

DORI SMITH is a coauthor of the Backup Brain Weblog (www.backupbrain.com). She has been blogging since 1999.



WordPress Plus You get more from WordPress when you use one of its dozens of plug-ins. You'll find tools for administering your blog, adding photos and music, and integrating WordPress with other apps.

THE WEB PRO'S TOOL KIT

BY DAVID SAWYER McFARLAND



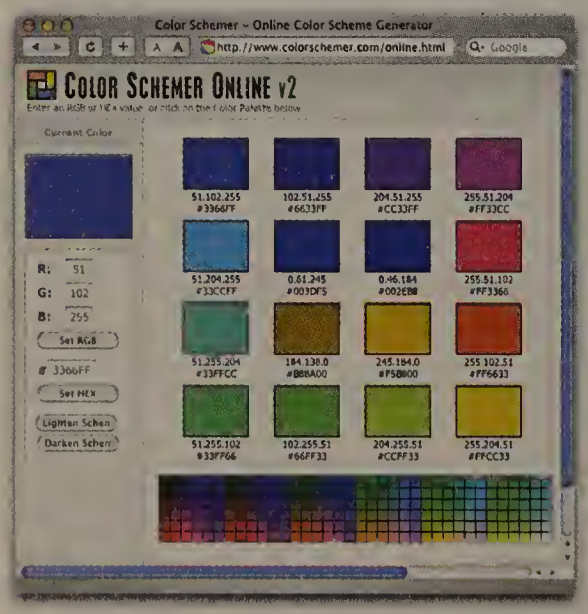
The open-source revolution has produced plenty of powerful programs for the Mac. It has also provided some of the fundamental—and free—tools that run the Web, including Apache (the world's most popular Web server) and MySQL (the relational database system that's used by Yahoo, NASA, and a bunch of other huge organizations that could afford to pay for software).

While professional Web developers use such big-name open-source applications as Apache, they also freely sample from myriad smaller open-source projects—bulletin-board programs, blogging apps, content-management systems, and other tools available at sites like SourceForge.net.

Professional Web developers aren't the only ones who can benefit from software produced (or at least inspired) by the open-source movement. The Web is bursting with Mac resources that can help anyone who runs a Web site. Here are a few of the best.

In Living Color

Selecting just the right colors—ones that will enhance your Web site's message rather than detract from it—can be a daunting task for any designer. Years of disciplined study and practical experience might make the process easier. But for people who need a little push in the right direction, there are several free Web tools that help you generate palettes of compatible colors, ranging from the bright and loud to the somber and subdued.



Does Magenta Go with Puce? If you're trying to pick colors for your Web site, Color Schemer Online can help. Give it one color, and it'll suggest 15 others that go with it.

Color Schemer Online (macworld.com/0798) provides a simple interface that lets you select a color and instantly see 15 other harmonious colors (see "Does Magenta Go with Puce?"). Color Scheme Generator 2 (macworld.com/0799) takes a more scientific and complex approach; it includes tools for viewing monochromatic, contrasting, and analogic color schemes.

If a photo is providing your inspiration, feed its URL to DeGraeve.com's Color Palette Generator (macworld.com/0800). The app will return two color schemes—a "vibrant" one and a "dull" one—based on the image's colors.

Inexpensive Images

A picture may be worth a thousand words. But to a designer, free photos may save a thousand bucks. Stock photography can be expensive—it's not uncommon to have to pay a few hundred dollars per image, and that can quickly erode a design budget.

Fortunately, there are plenty of online sources for low-cost or free imagery. MorgueFile (www.morguefile.com), for example, organizes its collection of free high-resolution photos into simple categories such as Animal, Objects, People, and Still Life (see "From the Morgue"). Stock.Xchng (www.sxc.hu) has a massive selection: more than 150,000 photos. iStockPhoto (www.istockphoto.com) isn't free, but each image costs just $1 to $3, and the quality of the photos is better than what you'll find at most free sites. And you can search the Web with YotoPhoto (yotophoto.com), a search engine that scours the Web for free images.

When you're searching for and using free imagery, keep in mind that you get what you pay for, so you may have to wade through dozens of bland vacation snapshots before you find a real gem. Most free photo sites let contributing photographers define a photo's usage rights: in some cases, you must credit the photographer; in others, commercial use is limited. Make sure to read the fine print on each site and for each photo you want to use.

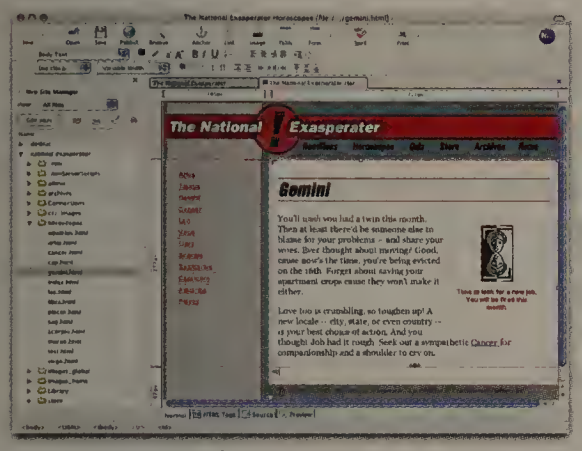


From the Morgue The name is ghoulish, but the service isn't: MorgueFile offers free photos in many categories.

ASCII-Style

Anyone who remembers daisy-wheel printers knows what ASCII art is about: images created with chunky black letters on white paper. If you're looking for that retro-tech look, check out ASCII Art Made Easy (macworld.com/0801). Provide a photo, and this Web page can quickly

turn it into a series of symbols and letters that simulate the various shades of gray. Squint hard enough, and the results look like the real thing. You can even add a modern touch of color.



Page Design on the Cheap NVU provides many of the features you'll find in more-expensive Web apps such as Macromedia Dreamweaver.

Building on a Budget

Macromedia Dreamweaver and GoLive may be the reigning champs of Web design, but not everyone can afford them. If money is tight, NVU (www.nvu.com) is worth a look (see "Page Design on the Cheap"). This open-source program runs on Linux, Windows, and the Mac, and it provides many of the features of an expensive Web design application—a WYSIWYG view, word-processor–like text tools, integrated FTP, template support, a CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) editor, and even a spelling checker.

Online Measuring Tape

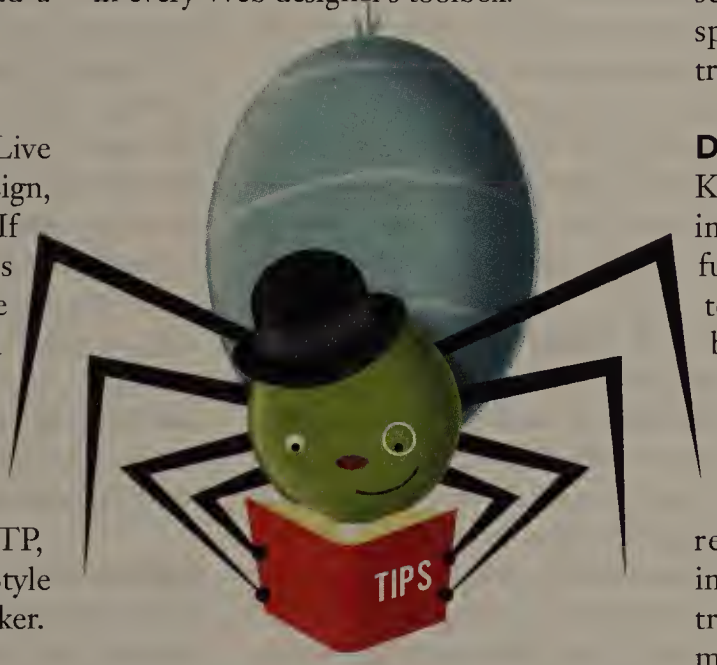
CSS gives Web designers the power to accurately control their page layouts. With pixel-accurate placement, you can dictate where a banner, sidebar, or graphic should be placed on a page.

MeasureIt (macworld.com/0802), a Firefox extension by Kevin Freitas, is a simple tool that can help refine your design process. While viewing a page in Firefox, you drag a rectangle across the page—over a graphic, for example. A shaded box appears giving you pixel values for the width and height. It's a helpful diagnostic tool, perfect for making sure your designs add up.

All-Purpose Tool

Web Designers spend a lot of time asking questions: Why doesn't the design look exactly the way I planned it? How will my site look if visitors don't have JavaScript turned on? Is my HTML and CSS code correct? And there are many ways to get the answers. But for all-around usefulness, you won't find anything better than the Web Developer extension, by Chris Pederick (see "Swiss Army Knife").

This Firefox add-on (macworld.com/0803) provides countless useful tools for analyzing Web pages. You can turn off JavaScript to see how a page works without it; add a graphic outline around all block-level elements to quickly identify layout elements on a page; display the size (in pixels) of any block or image on the page; view any cookies currently set for the current Web site; make sure all the links on a current page work; validate HTML and CSS; and plenty more. Web Developer belongs in every Web designer's toolbox.



How Does It Look in Windows?

Mac Web designers face the uncomfortable fact that most people browsing the Web use Internet Explorer (IE) on Windows computers. Because IE is relatively old and doesn't adhere to the same standards as Safari or Firefox, you'll often find that a design that looks beautiful on your Mac will fall apart on IE for Windows. If you don't have a Windows machine lying around, you can get a little help on the Web. Browsershots (browsershots.org) is a free Web-based screen-capture tool that lets you see what your Web site will look like on different Web browsers and operating systems. It can take screenshots of IE 5.5 and 6 for Windows, and it can even take them at different screen resolutions and with different color depths. Since this is a volunteer effort, you may find that it takes a few hours and sometimes days for your screenshots to be completed. If you've got more money than time, BrowserCam (www.browsercam.com) provides a commercial alternative.

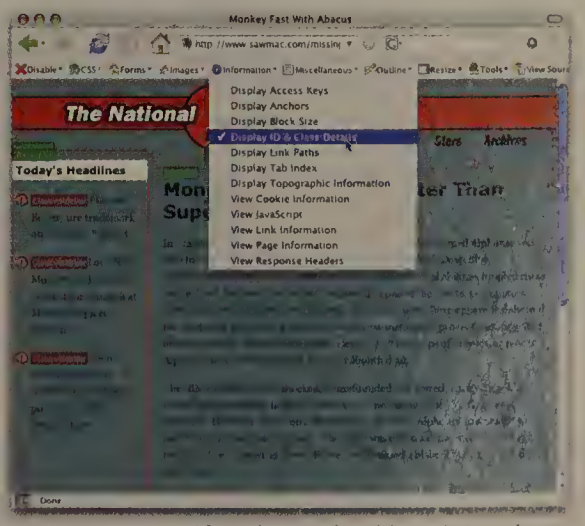
Net Administrators Rejoice

If you're neck-deep in the Web, you probably have to deal with a lot of hassles—registering domain names, making sure your Web server is still up-and-running, and fighting spammers. There are plenty of tools available in OS X's Unix core that'll help you with all that. But if you want a one-stop shop for much of your Web administrivia, check out DNS Stuff (www.dnsstuff.com). There you can find out who owns any domain on the Web, whether a mail server (including your own) is listed in a spam database, and many more ways to track down network problems.

Desk(top) Reference

Keeping up with the Web's changing trends and technologies can be a full-time job. But you shouldn't have to waste your time looking for the best sources of information. The Web Developer's Handbook (www.alvit.de/handbook) is a compact Web page loaded with hundreds of links to some of the most useful Web-design resources on the Web. From design inspiration to the latest technical tips and tricks, you'll find plenty of sites that can make you a better designer.

DAVID SAWYER McFARLAND is a Web developer. He is also the author of *Dreamweaver 8: The Missing Manual* (O'Reilly, 2005).



Swiss Army Knife Chris Pederick's Web Developer extension gives you all sorts of tools for analyzing your Web pages.

workingmac@macworld.com

Kid-Proof Your Mac

"Don't take e-mail from strangers." "Look both ways before you IM." "Stay away from bad Web sites." Being a parent can be complicated—and now modern parents have the Internet to worry about, too. Luckily, Tiger's new parental controls can help.

Whether you share a Mac with your children or they have their own, it's a snap to create user accounts so that everyone has separate preferences and settings for applications. Now Tiger also lets you set *parental controls*, or limits on what your kids can do, so it's easier for them to use the computer—and so they have fewer things to fiddle with (or break).

Setting limits is a great way to get kids used to the Mac. Starting with basic applications and the games they want to play, you can gradually broaden their access to other programs. Parental controls are also a good way to protect your kids from the seamier side of the Internet without investing in add-on software.

No Kids?

Parental controls aren't just for parents. Use these tools to limit users to certain tasks on any Mac—whether it's at a computer lab, a library, a kiosk, or an Internet café.

One Mac, Many Users

If you're the only user on your Mac, you may have noticed that you have special powers. With your secret decoder ring (your password), you're allowed to install software, make changes to preferences that affect the entire system, and create and delete other user accounts. You've got all this power because you're the administrator. Each Mac has at least one.

But there are also more-limited types of accounts. By default, when you create an account without administrator abilities, it's called a *standard* account. Standard users can't install software for all users or make changes to options in certain System Preferences panes (such as options in Startup Disk and Network, and others that affect the entire computer).



Setting Limits Tiger lets you set parental controls for five different areas of your Mac. For instance, you can specify the people your children can exchange e-mail and iChat messages with, or restrict them to specific Safari bookmarks that route them toward safe sites.

If you restrict an account further by using parental controls, it becomes a *managed* account. For instance, you can choose exactly which applications managed users can run, and you can limit the tasks they can perform in the Finder.

Create a New Account When you're ready to get started, open System Preferences, click on the Accounts pane, click on the padlock, and enter your administrator password. (Only administrators can create user accounts.)

You'll see a list of your Mac's user accounts. To create a new one, click on the plus-sign icon (+) below the accounts list. A sheet will appear. Enter a user name, a short name (which doesn't have to match the user's real name), and a password. Type the password a second time to verify it. Add a password hint if you want. Now you're ready to make the rules.

House Rules

With the user account selected, click on the Parental Controls tab. You'll see that Tiger lets you set restrictions for five things: Mail, Finder & System, iChat, Safari, and Dictionary (see "Setting Limits"). You have different options for each one. I'll take you through the application options first.

Mail Worried about your kids receiving sleazy spam or exchanging e-mail messages with strangers? You can set up a list of people (for instance, relatives, their homeroom teachers, and their best friends) with whom they can exchange messages.

Select the Mail option and click on Configure, and you'll see a sheet where you can add e-mail addresses. Select the Send Permission Emails To option, and Mail will send a message to you, or to someone else, so you can authorize e-mail messages to or from people *not* on the list. That's handy if your child is working on a project and needs to send and receive messages from new people. You must be using Mail in Tiger to give this authorization.

iChat As with Mail, you can set up a list of people your child can chat with. Select iChat, click on Configure, and add any names you want.

All-Ages iTunes



If you'd like to supervise your kids' music purchases, you can with Apple's iTunes 5. iTunes now offers parental controls that let you both disable Podcasts and prevent your kids from buying music with explicit lyrics from the iTunes Music Store. (You can also choose to disable the Music Store altogether.) To activate parental controls, go to iTunes: Preferences and click on the Parental tab. Select the main options here (Disable Podcasts, Disable Music Store, Disable Shared Music), and the related items disappear from iTunes' Source list. Select the Restrict Explicit Content option, and the Buy button for albums or songs with explicit lyrics will be grayed out. If you're using Tiger, click on the lock to require that users enter an administrator password to change parental control settings.—SCHOLLE SAWYER McFARLAND

Safari Until recently, you've had to use a special browser, such as Freeverse Software's $30 Bumper-Car or app4mac's $29 KidsBrowser (see macworld.com/0576), if you wanted any control over your kids' surfing habits. But now Safari's parental controls cover the basics. You create Safari bookmarks for the sites you want to allow.

Select the Safari option and click on Configure. Now go to Apple: Log Out *your user name*, and then log back in as your child. Launch Safari. When you try to visit a Web site, Safari will display a page telling you that the program is limited by parental controls. Click on Add Website, and then enter your administrator user name and password in the dialog box. A link to the site will appear in the Bookmarks bar. The user will be able to access sites only through the Bookmarks bar, so you may want to shorten the site name to conserve space.

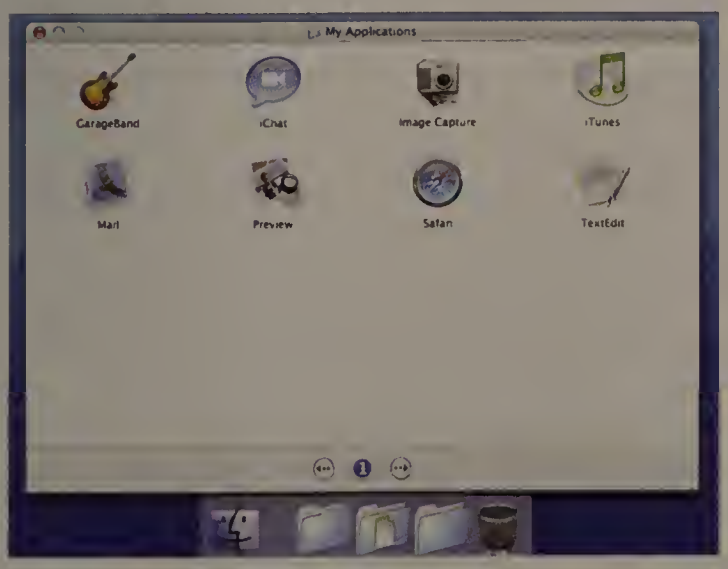
If you want to add or subtract multiple bookmarks, the easiest way is to click on the locked Show All Bookmarks icon to the left (represented by an open book with a lock). Enter your user name and password, and then organize bookmarks in this view. Notice that Apple provides a Kids folder here with a number of sites you might want to include.

Dictionary If you activate parental controls for the new Dictionary application, it will limit access to "certain words, such as some profanity." You have no control over which words Dictionary blocks.

A Fitting Finder

The Finder & System controls give you the most latitude in choosing what your kids can and can't do on your Mac. Select Finder & System and click on Configure to see the many limits you can set.

Simple Finder Your first choice is between Simple Finder and Some Limits. Simple Finder is a great choice for young children, or for situations (such as in a computer lab or a library) where you want users to access only certain programs. It presents a very limited interface to the user: the Dock contains three folders (My Applications, Documents, and Shared), and the user can work only with the applications you choose (see "Only the Essentials"). To set up this list, deselect the Allow option next to Applications, click on the disclosure triangle, and then select the applications you want to allow the user to work with.



Only the Essentials Simple Finder gives kids a minimalist interface in which they can't break anything. The Dock contains only three folders: My Applications, Documents, and Shared.

Some Limits You can use the Some Limits option to bar a user from certain areas of the Mac. For instance, you can let the user open all System Preferences panes, though he or she won't be able to change any that require administrator access. You can let the user modify the Dock. (If you don't choose this, set up the user's Dock the way you want before turning this option off.) You can also allow the user to administer printers and burn CDs and DVDs.

Your last option is Allow Supporting Programs. Choose it, and any application that you allow can launch any other application (even one you have not allowed). For example, clicking on a Web-site link in the iTunes Music Store will open Safari, even if you have not allowed the user to work with Safari.

Next, decide which applications you want the user to run. As with Simple Finder, you can allow any or all applications, clicking on the disclosure triangles to see the programs available on your Mac. Once you're done, set up the user's Dock to contain icons for only the permitted applications. Just log in to the person's account (don't set limits yet, or you won't be able to make changes), drag the icons to (or from) the Dock, log out, and turn off the user's ability to change the Dock.

The Family-Friendly Mac

After you set up your kids' accounts, you'll know that they can run only the programs and access only the Web sites that you want them to. As time goes by, you can relax these limitations, until your kids become the family's computer geeks. □

KIRK McELHEARN (www.mcelhearn.com) is the author of *Take Control of Users & Accounts in Tiger* (TidBits Electronic Publishing, 2005).

Picking the Right iPod

In 2001, when Apple introduced the iPod, there was just one model—the only decision you had to make was to iPod or not to iPod. But in the past four years, the company has made things more complicated by adding several members to the iPod family.

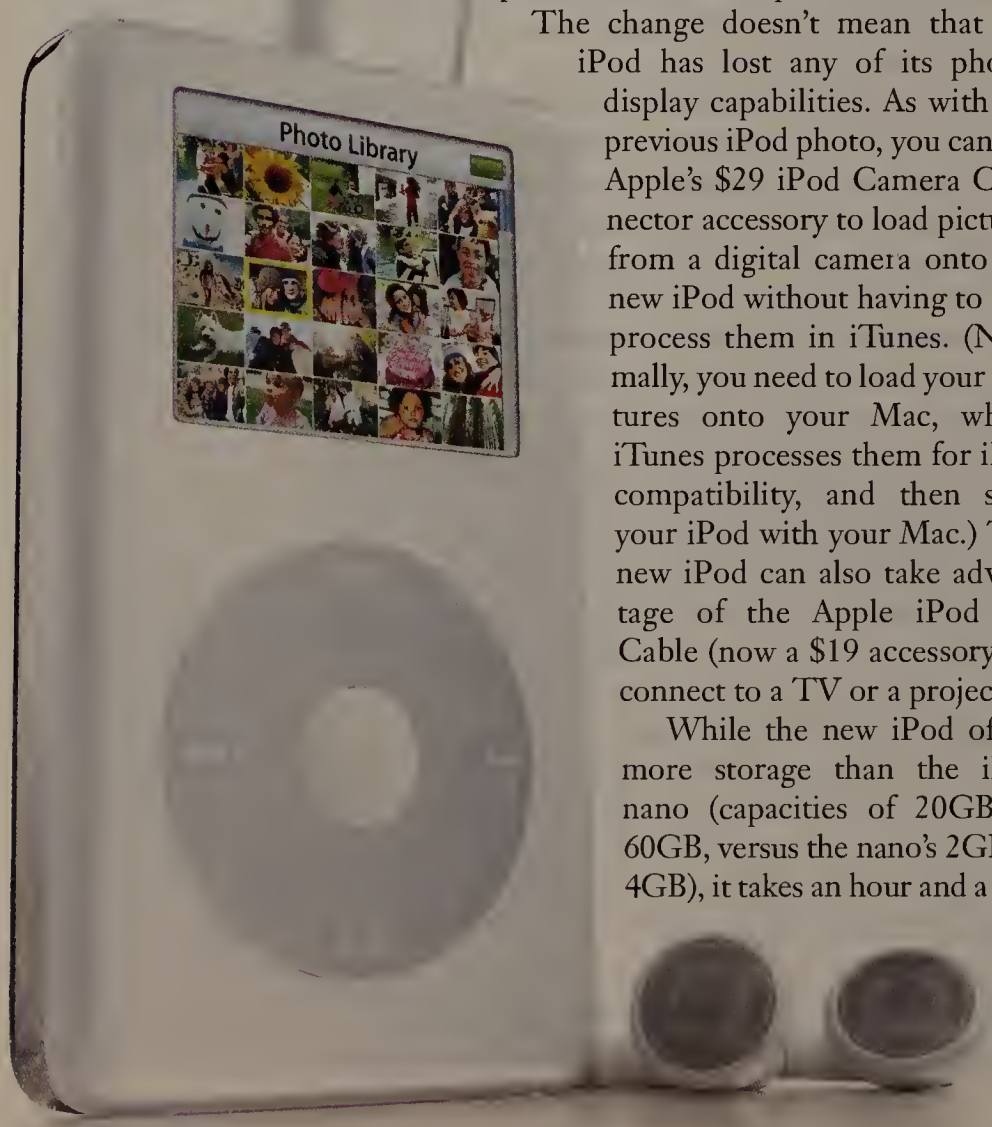
playlist

Want more tips on digital music? For iPod- and iTunes-related expert advice and breaking news, as well as reviews of all the latest gadgets, check out playlistmag.com.

Apple currently offers three versions of its diminutive music player—the iPod shuffle, the iPod nano, and the color-screen iPod—at prices ranging from $99 to $399. Which model will best serve you? Well, I've had my hands on every iPod model Apple has released—and here's my advice on finding the right iPod for you.

iPod

Not long ago, Apple offered the fourth-generation iPod (a model with a monochrome display) and a separate iPod photo (a model that could not only play music but also display color pictures on its screen, on a TV, or via a projector). In June 2005, Apple brought color to all its full-size iPods (including the iPod U2 Special Edition) and dropped the word *photo* from the iPod photo's name.



The change doesn't mean that the iPod has lost any of its photo-display capabilities. As with the previous iPod photo, you can use Apple's $29 iPod Camera Connector accessory to load pictures from a digital camera onto the new iPod without having to first process them in iTunes. (Normally, you need to load your pictures onto your Mac, where iTunes processes them for iPod compatibility, and then sync your iPod with your Mac.) The new iPod can also take advantage of the Apple iPod AV Cable (now a $19 accessory) to connect to a TV or a projector.

While the new iPod offers more storage than the iPod nano (capacities of 20GB or 60GB, versus the nano's 2GB or 4GB), it takes an hour and a half longer to fully charge (5 hours versus the nano's 3.5 hours). And because the iPod uses a hard drive rather than solid-state flash memory, it's susceptible to skipping (though it offers 17 minutes of skip protection). It does, however, offer greater play time for both music and slide shows—15 hours of continuous play for music and as long as 5 hours for slide shows, versus the nano's 14 hours for audio and at least 4 hours for slide shows. And the iPod has all the music and storage features turned on. Unlike the nano and the shuffle, it lets you record voice memos with a third-party recorder such as Griffin Technology's $40 iTalk (www.griffintechnology.com) or Belkin's $35 Voice Recorder for iPod with Dock Connector (www.belkin.com).

Capacity and Price A 20GB (approximately 5,000 songs) iPod costs $299; a 60GB (approximately 15,000 songs) iPod, $399; and a 20GB U2 Special Edition (approximately 5,000 songs) iPod, $329. For our review of the 20GB iPod (★★★★★), go to macworld.com/0728. For our review of the 60GB iPod (★★★★½), go to macworld.com/0825.

Ideal Usage and User If you're looking for the ultimate in an iPod—a large color screen, the ability to display pictures on a TV or a projector, long play times, and enough storage for a very large music library—you and the full-size iPod are meant for each other.

iPod Nano

When Apple introduced the iPod nano, it killed off the much-beloved iPod mini—and many people wondered why. It didn't take long, however, to understand that the nano was more than just a more miniature mini—it was the next logical step in the midpriced iPod line. Out went the mini's monochrome LCD and in came a color display similar to the one on the larger iPod (though half an inch smaller). Gone, too, was the mini's hard drive, replaced by 2GB or 4GB of flash memory. The mini was cool, but the nano is a far cooler way to shove a thousand tunes into a very tiny pocket.

The iPod nano has many of the same features as the full-size iPod, but it also suffers from some of the same limitations as the mini. As mentioned earlier, like the minis, the iPod nano doesn't support voice

continues

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER

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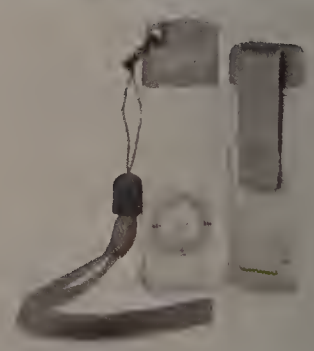


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ICON BY PAUL HOWALT; IPOD NANO PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF APPLE

recording and media storage via third-party peripherals. And although the iPod nano has a color screen, it doesn't offer as many picture-related features as the full-size iPod. For example, you can use neither Apple's iPod Camera Connector nor a device such as Belkin's $50 Media Reader to load pictures onto a nano. Also, the nano offers no support for viewing pictures on an attached TV or projector—instead, you're stuck watching slide shows and viewing photos on the nano's bright but tiny display. And any accessories that depend on the iPod's Remote Control port—FM transmitters and remote controls, for example—won't work with the nano because it lacks this port.

When you consider the price-to-storage ratio, the nano isn't as good a deal as the iPod. Cost per megabyte for the $199 2GB iPod nano is nearly 10 cents. And a megabyte on the $249 4GB nano costs just over six cents. Compare this with about two cents per megabyte on a $299 20GB iPod, and you'll see that people who want the most storage for their

continues

CHECK IT OUT

Alternative Audiobooks

The iTunes Music Store and Audible.com are excellent online resources for audiobooks—the latter carries more than 25,000 titles—but a big drawback is price. Audiobooks are not only more expensive than digital music albums; they also typically cost a few dollars more than their printed counterparts. But several projects are now bringing low-cost or free audiobooks to the Web.

Project Gutenberg (www.gutenberg.org)—long famous for building a repository of free, public-domain e-books—has been quietly building an audiobook library as well. With more than 400 titles (mostly literary classics), it's extensive enough to make for hours of browsing. Gutenberg carries only a handful of human-read books, however—most titles are read by computers.

Because Gutenberg uses public-domain texts, others can build from its existing work, which is what a site called LibriVox (librivox.blogsome.com) has done. LibriVox has started Podcasting audiobooks, one chapter at a time, from texts available on Project Gutenberg. Volunteers contribute all the audio, taking turns reading chapters and uploading them to the site. As LibriVox posts each chapter online, it also sends it out via a Podcast. LibriVox got its start recently with its first title, Joseph Conrad's *Secret Agent*.

Another low-cost alternative is Telltale Weekly (www.telltaleweekly.org), which sells about 100 human-read audiobooks at discount prices—for instance, Edgar Allan Poe's story "The Pit and the Pendulum" costs a buck; Franz Kafka's "Metamorphosis" costs $4; Kate Chopin's "The Kiss" is a mere 25 cents; and James Joyce's "Araby" short story, from *Dubliners*, is free. What's more, all works are DRM-free, and available in MP3, AAC, and Ogg Vorbis formats.—MATHEW HONAN

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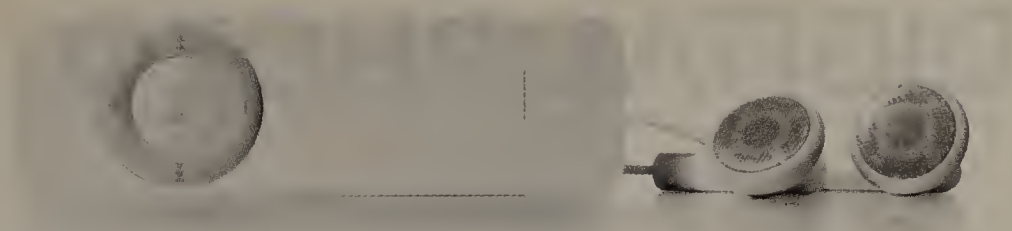
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money may pass on the nano's cool form and handy size in favor of the higher-capacity iPod.

The nano's flash memory does offer some advantages. As I mentioned, flash memory eliminates skipping. Because the nano has no moving parts, it's also more likely to survive a fall than a full-size iPod. And since there's no hard drive to spin up, the nano is quite responsive—zipping through a screen full of songs and easily dashing from one photo to another.

Capacity and Price A 2GB (approximately 500 songs) nano costs $199; a 4GB (approximately 1,000 songs) nano, $249. For our review of the iPod nanos (both ♦♦♦♦½), go to macworld.com/0817.

Ideal Usage and User The diminutive nano, with its white or black case, is Apple's most fashionable iPod. If you have a sense of style and want to store a goodly number of songs on a small, portable music player, the iPod nano may be hard to resist. And unlike the shuffle, it offers a display (with color, to boot) and the iPod's signature Click Wheel.

iPod Shuffle

Apple's least-expensive iPod offers a host of advantages: it's affordable enough to be an impulse buy; its sound quality is as good as that of any other iPod; like the nano, it never skips (it, too, has flash memory rather than a hard drive); it's highly portable; and it holds more than enough music to get you through a long drive or a marathon run (and with up to 12 hours of play time, the battery will last longer than your playlist). It doesn't, however, include a screen for navigating to specific songs. And its capacity is limited, so only people with very small music collections will be able to store an entire library on it.

Capacity and Price A 512MB (approximately 120 songs) shuffle costs $99; a 1GB (approximately 240 songs) shuffle, $129. For our review of the iPod shuffles (both ♦♦♦♦½), go to macworld.com/0826.

Ideal Usage and User The shuffle's nonskip nature and minuscule size make it the perfect companion for exercising. And it's easily inexpensive enough to become your second, "just kickin' around" iPod. It's also a good choice for kids (or adults) who tend to misplace their valuables—losing a $99 shuffle is a lot easier to bear than misplacing a $399 iPod. □

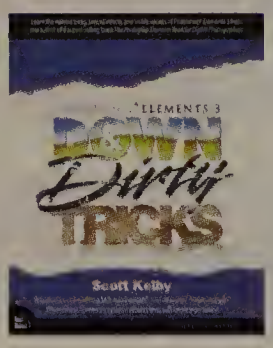
Contributing Editor CHRISTOPHER BREEN is the author of *Secrets of the iPod and iTunes*, fifth edition (Peachpit Press, 2005), and the editor in chief of Playlistmag.com.

iPOD SHUFFLE PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER



3 Fast Photo Tricks

Looking to spice up your photos? Many of the hottest photographic tricks (the ones you see every day in magazines, in movies, and on the Web) only *look* hard. In fact, they're quite simple—once you know the secrets behind them. Here are three interesting photo effects that take just minutes to perform in Adobe Photoshop Elements 3 ($80; www.adobe.com) or the full version of Photoshop.



By the Book This article is an excerpt from *Photoshop Elements 3 Down & Dirty Tricks,* by Scott Kelby (2005; reprinted by permission of Pearson Education and New Riders).

Burned-in Portraits

The burned-in edge effect adds an amazing amount of warmth to your portraits (see "Fading Fast"), which is one reason it's so popular with professional photographers. In fact, once you've learned this simple technique, you'll use it again and again.

Step 1 Open the portrait that you want to burn in.

Step 2 Create a new blank layer by clicking on the Create A New Layer icon in the Layers palette. Press the D key to set your foreground color to black, and then fill this new layer with black by pressing option-delete. Press the M key to switch to the Rectangular Marquee tool, and click and drag to create a rectangular selection just inside the edges of your image.

Step 3 To soften the edges of your selection, go to the Select menu and choose Feather. When the Feather Selection dialog box appears, enter 40 pixels (for high-resolution, 300-ppi images, try 150 pixels), and click on OK.

Step 4 Press the delete key to knock out a soft-edged hole in this black layer, revealing the photo on the layer beneath. The edges will be too dark, but you'll fix that in the next step.

Step 5 Press ⌘-D to deselect. Then go to the Layers palette and lower the opacity of the black layer to around 40 percent to complete the burned-in effect. To see how effective this technique is, click on the Eye icon to the left of your black frame layer to hide it, revealing just your original image. Now click again in the box where the Eye icon was. Notice the difference?



Fading Fast By dimming the edges of your shot, you can draw the viewer's eyes to the center of your image and add warmth.

Instant Stock-Photo Effect

The "wild color" effect is incredibly popular right now. In fact, there are entire collections of royalty-free stock photos that use this technique, and you often see it used in print ads, in magazines, and on the Web. It's ideal for taking an otherwise boring image and using wild colors to make it trendy and interesting (see "Color Me Wild").

Step 1 Open the photo you want to apply the effect to. In this case, it's a regular RGB photo that looks kind of, well, boring.

Step 2 Go to the Layers palette, and from the Create Adjustment Layer pop-up menu, choose Gradient Map. This will bring up the Gradient Map dialog box.

Step 3 Click on the little down-facing triangle to the right of the current gradient swatch to bring up the Gradient Picker. From the Picker's fly-out menu (the right-facing arrow), choose Color Harmonies 2 to load this example's set of gradients; when they appear, choose the Purple, Green, Gold gradient.

Step 4 Click on OK. This applies a Gradient Map adjustment layer over your photo. This gradient map is usually too intense and pretty much trashes your photo. To fix that, go to the Layers palette and change the layer blend mode of this layer from Normal to Color. Now the color of the Gradient Map layer blends in more smoothly, and it replicates the wild color effect that's so popular in stock-photo collections.

Step 5 To fine-tune the effect, press the X key until you've set your foreground color to black, and then press B to switch to the Brush tool. Up in the Options bar, lower the opacity for your brush to 50 percent

PHOTOS BY BRAND X PICTURES



Color Me Wild Add a gradient map to give an otherwise boring shot a modern, colorful look.

and then click on the brush thumbnail and choose a large, soft-edged brush from the Brush Picker. Now paint over areas where you want to have more detail. You're actually painting on the layer mask of the Gradient Map adjustment layer, and as you paint in black, some of the original color will start to reappear.

Painted-Edges Technique

This technique, where you essentially hide the photo and then paint it back in, is particularly popular with landscape and portrait photographers (see "Framed"). But it works so well for so many different styles of photos, you'll be amazed at how many other uses you'll find for it.

Step 1 Open the photo you want to apply the effect to.

Step 2 Create a new blank layer by clicking on the Create A New Layer icon in the Layers palette. Press D-X to set your foreground color to white, and then fill this new layer with white by pressing option-delete (your image will disappear, but we'll get it back in a minute).

Step 3 Press the E key to switch to the Eraser tool. Go up to the Options bar, and bring up the Brush Picker by clicking on the brush thumbnail. You're going to load a set of brushes, so click on the Brush Picker's fly-out menu (it's the right-facing black arrow in the top right corner of the Picker) and choose Load Brushes. In the Load dialog box, click on the Thick Heavy Brushes set and click on Load. (Note: You may need to navigate on your hard drive to find the brushes. If so, find the Photoshop Elements 3 folder, open the Presets folder, and then open the Brushes folder. The presets will appear.) These brushes will automatically be added to the end of the Brush Picker, so scroll down near the end of the Picker and click on the first Thick Heavy Brush, the 111-pixel Flat Bristle brush.

Step 4 To help you see what you want to paint back in, lower the opacity of the top white layer to around 50 percent in the Layers palette. Now you can paint over the areas you want to be visible. Start painting a few strokes with this brush from left to right across your image area. As you do so, the original photo will paint back in. One of the cool things about this brush is that it has some gaps in it (like a real dry brush), which helps give your image a realistic, painted look. Notice the bottom stroke in particular, and you can see the gaps (some upper areas don't have as many gaps because I painted more than one stroke over those areas).

Step 5 Go back to the Brush Picker in the Options bar and choose the next 111-pixel brush, the Rough Flat Bristle brush. Paint a stroke along the top of the painted effect with only a very small portion of this brush tip extending over the top of the already painted areas. This adds a more random, spattered look along the top edge. Do the same along the bottom. Raise the opacity of this white layer in the Layers palette back to 100 percent so you can see your painting effect.

Step 6 For the finished piece, you can add a line of text to the bottom. Press D to set your foreground color to black, press T to switch to the Type tool, and then enter your text (the typeface used here is Minion). □

SCOTT KELBY (www.scottkelby.com) is the editor in chief and a cofounder of *Photoshop User* magazine, and the president of the National Association of Photoshop Professionals.



Framed The frame's straight edges dampen the free spirit of this photo. But a custom frame gives it that just-painted look.

Newsletter First Aid

When creating a holiday newsletter or a PDF outlining your company's new dental plan, you generally don't have a cadre of nitpicking designers and copy editors to help you—you may not even have a page-layout program other than Microsoft Word. But no one else has to know that.

In fact, it's surprisingly easy to create professional-looking newsletters, using only the typesetting tools built into your word processor.

If your newsletters suffer from a boring or clumsy design, my makeover plan will help. By following the editing and typesetting rules the pros follow, you can give your work a fresh new look *and* make it easier to read. And the best part is that all these adjustments are possible not only in professional layout programs such as QuarkXPress and Adobe InDesign, but also in Word 2004 (as well as other versions) and Pages, part of Apple's $79 iWork '05 suite.

Divide the Page

Nothing kills a reader's enthusiasm more quickly than a long, unbroken block of text (see "Beauty School").

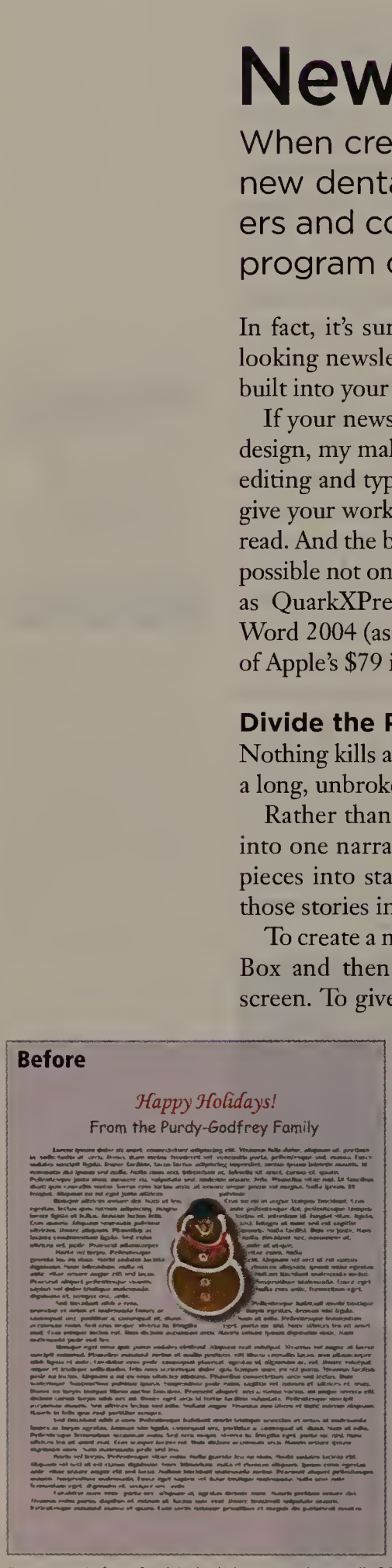
Rather than cramming a year's worth of activities into one narrative, look for ways to break out some pieces into stand-alone stories. Then place each of those stories in its own text box.

To create a new text box in Word, go to Insert: Text Box and then click and drag to draw the box on screen. To give the box a background color and help separate it from the rest of your text, choose Format: Text Box and click on the Colors And Lines tab. To remove the default border around the box, set Line Color to No Line.

To create a new text box in Pages, go to Insert: Text (if the menu item is grayed out, click on the edge of your document to hide the blinking cursor) and then drag the edge of the box to create the desired shape. You can add a fill color or a border from the Graphic section of the Inspector palette.

If you can't turn your long story into a few shorter stories, you may be able to separate your text into smaller chunks by adding subheads. Leave an empty line above each subhead, but not below it—you want the eye to associate the subhead with the paragraph beneath it. Also, make your subheads similar in size to your body text (you can use a special font or color to help them stand out). If the subhead is much bigger than the body text, it could mess up text alignment.

Tip: To ensure that your subheads are consistent—a key tenet of good design—create a style for them. Once you've designed a subhead, highlight it. In Word, go to Format: Style. Click on New and give the subhead style a name. If you'd like to use it in other documents, select the Add To Template option. Then click on OK. In Pages, click on the plus sign (+) at the bottom of the Styles drawer (if you don't see the drawer, press ⌘-shift-T to open it).



Beauty School This holiday newsletter (left) suffers from poor font choices, long stretches of dense text, and overall spacing issues. To fix the problem (right), I divided the text into more-manageable chunks with subheads and a small text box, added columns to shorten the lines, and created consistent white space throughout the page.

Add White Space

What *isn't* on your page can be just as important as what *is*. Elements tend to look messy when they're crowded together. Leaving breathing room around all the items on your page will make your document more inviting.

Set Wide Margins Start by placing generous margins—an inch or so—on either side of your page. In Word, set margins by going to Format: Document. In Pages, go to the Layout section of the Inspector palette (it's the second button from the left in the Inspector window). (After your newsletter is complete, adjusting margins is a good way to fill a page or fit more text.)

Create Columns Long lines of text are hard to follow; short ones can look choppy. To keep the eye moving, limit the length of lines to no less than 20

and no more than 75 characters. The easiest way to keep this proportion in check is to divide the text into columns. In Word, go to Format: Columns and enter the number of columns you want. In Pages, go to the Layout section of the Inspector palette.

Adjust the Leading For readability, your document's *leading*—the amount of space between lines of text—should be at least one point larger than your text size. But adding slightly more leading often looks better.

In Word, you can fine-tune leading by going to Format: Paragraph. Set the Line Spacing pull-down menu to Exactly and enter the desired leading size in the text box. In Pages, you'll find the leading controls in the Text section of the Inspector palette. Use the Line slider to adjust leading, or use the arrows to the slider's right for more-precise control. (Adjusting leading is another great way to precisely fit text on a page.)

Change the Indentation Too much white space can also be a problem. By default, many word processors and page-layout programs create indents that are too deep, especially for narrow columns. An indented line should usually project only two or three characters into a paragraph.

To set a more moderate indentation in Word, press ⌘-A to select all of your text and open the Alignment And Spacing section of the Formatting palette; the First setting adjusts the indentation of paragraphs.

In Pages, go to the Text section of the Inspector palette and open the Tabs pane. The First Line setting adjusts paragraph indentation.

Be Consistent When you're working with white space, check for consistency. For instance, the space around an image (defined by its text-wrap setting) should match the space between columns. To specify the text wrap in Word, select the image or text box and go to Format: Picture or Format: Text Box, respectively. Select the Layout tab and click on Advanced. Use the Distance From Text settings in the Text Wrapping tab to define your spacing. To access text-wrapping controls in Pages, click on the Inspector palette's Wrap button (the third button from the left).

Pay Attention to Details

Once you've settled on your page's overall design, it's time to focus on the details. Before I prepare any document for print, I check for the following problems:

Correct Straight Quotation Marks Even professional designers sometimes neglect to watch out for straight apostrophes (') and quotation marks ("); they seem to crop up everywhere, marring otherwise lovely typefaces—their biggest problem is that they're unsightly. To make sure they aren't in your document, find and replace all your apostrophes and quotation marks (keep in mind that you *should* use straight apostrophes and quotation marks in some cases, such as when they're referring to feet and inches). The process is the same in both programs. Press ⌘-F to open the Find palette, enter an apostrophe or quotation mark in both the Find and Replace fields, and then click on Replace All. (If this doesn't work in Word, go to Tools: AutoCorrect. Click on the AutoFormat As You Type tab and select the Straight Quotes With Smart Quotes option. Click on OK. Perform the search and replace again.)

Save Stragglers A *widow* (a one-word line left alone at the top of a page) can be a sad sight in an otherwise cheerful document. Both programs have options for controlling widows. In Word, go to Format: Paragraph: Line And Page Breaks and select the Widow/Orphan Control option. In Pages, go to the More tab of the Inspector palette's Text section.

Turn On Hyphenation If your paragraphs are *justified*—meaning that all lines are the same length—you may end up with odd gaps in your text (also known as *loose lines*). To even out the spacing, turn on the document's automatic-hyphenation settings. In Word, go to Tools: Hyphenation and choose the Automatically Hyphenate Document option. To prevent the stacking of too many hyphenated words, set the Limit Consecutive Hyphens To option to 3 or 4.

To activate the hyphenation settings in Pages, go to Inspector: Text: More, and make sure that the Remove Hyphenation For Paragraph setting is *not* selected.

Hyphenation will also help prevent abrupt, jagged edges in nonjustified (or *ragged*) lines of text. If you still end up with a word hanging in white space, well beyond the lines above and below it, place the cursor in front of the lonesome word and press shift-return to force it to the next line.

Check Your Work

Your holiday newsletter might just become a family heirloom, so take the time to check it twice. When your pages are perfect, run your spelling checker one last time; then you're ready to print.

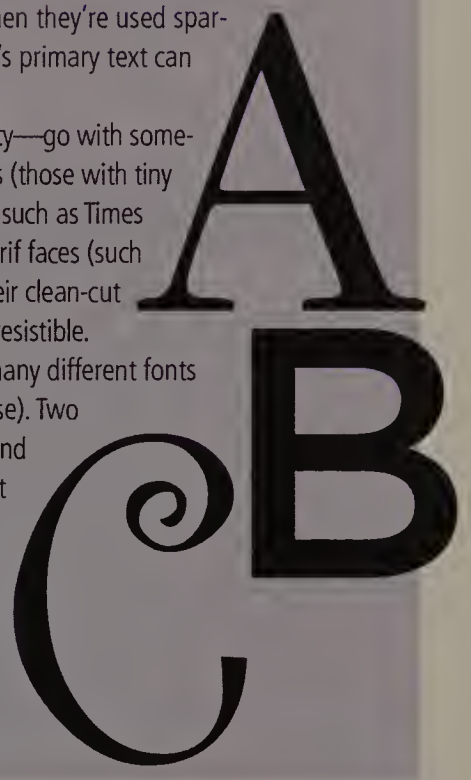
CHARLES PURDY is *Macworld*'s managing editor.

Choose Fonts Wisely

Funky fonts can make a wonderful visual impact when they're used sparingly. But using an off-the-wall font for a document's primary text can make the document hard to read.

For long blocks of text, err on the side of readability—go with something fairly conservative. For small type, *serif* typefaces (those with tiny decorative strokes at the tops and bottoms of letters, such as Times and New York) tend to be easier to read than sans serif faces (such as Verdana and Arial). However, sans serifs—with their clean-cut edges—have a simplicity that some designers find irresistible.

Whatever typeface you choose, avoid using too many different fonts (unless you're going for a ransom-note look, of course). Two fonts (and their associated alphabets—italic, bold, and so on) are enough to handle most of the text in most documents. Using one serif font and one sans serif font in a document—for example, using a serif font such as Janson for body text and a sans serif such as Gotham for subheads—can provide an eye-pleasing contrast. (For more on choosing typefaces, go to macworld.com/0735.)



Get Online with a Cell Phone

The best way to access the Internet when you're on the road is to connect your laptop to a broadband service via Ethernet or Wi-Fi. And your laptop's internal modem can provide a reliable, if slow, way to get online. But what if none of these connections is available?



By the Book This article is an excerpt from *Global Mobile: Connecting without Walls, Wires, or Borders,* by Fred Johnson (2005; reprinted by permission of Pearson Education and Peachpit Press).

The answer may be to use your cell phone as a modem. Data-transfer speeds can be low, and your phone bill could be high (especially if roaming charges apply). But it still beats being cut off from the Internet entirely.

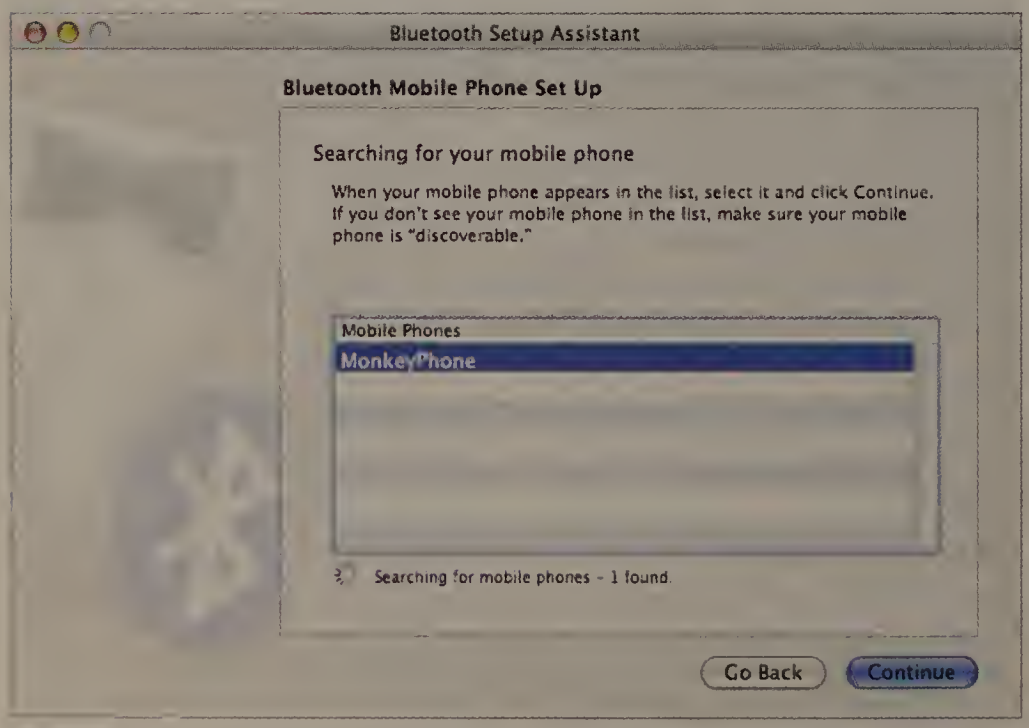
Data Service

The first thing you need to do is check with your cellular service provider to see if your phone can be used as a modem. Don't assume that it can just because it can download ring tones and Web pages.

Once you have a data-capable phone, you'll need to figure out how you'll connect it to your laptop. You have three options: USB, infrared (IrDA), or Bluetooth. Speedwise, it doesn't matter which one you use, because the data-transfer rate between your carrier and your phone is usually slower than the one between your phone and your computer.

What Kind of Phone?

If you have a CDMA cell phone (see "What's Your Network?"), you may not have Bluetooth—these phones often have USB and IrDA ports instead. Of the two, USB is the way to go because its connections are easier to maintain.



Pairing Up OS X's Bluetooth Setup Assistant walks you through the process of getting your laptop and your cell phone to talk to each other.

Tip Don't have Bluetooth on your laptop? PC Card and USB adapters can easily and inexpensively add Bluetooth to a laptop that doesn't have it on board. Bluetooth adapters are also available for cell phones, but they allow you to connect only to Bluetooth headsets; you can't use them to connect to a Bluetooth-enabled computer.

GSM phones, on the other hand, may sport any of those three ports. If you have a choice, go with Bluetooth. It doesn't require a cable, and its 30-foot range is much greater than IrDA's. (Because Bluetooth has largely superseded IrDA in recent years, I'm going to provide instructions for wireless connections using Bluetooth.) If you're not sure of your phone's capabilities, check its documentation or contact the phone's manufacturer.

Almost all current laptops have USB ports, which can be used either for cabling to a cell phone or for adding Bluetooth. If you're not sure of your laptop's capabilities, check its documentation, contact the manufacturer, or look for the USB symbol or the Bluetooth symbol on its case.

The Hookup

Connecting a phone to a laptop via USB is a snap. You buy the correct data cable for the make and model of your phone (or use the one provided in a connection kit from your phone provider). You then plug one end of the cable into the cell phone and the other into a USB port on your laptop.

If you'd rather connect via Bluetooth, the first step is to be sure that both devices have Bluetooth enabled. To check on your particular phone, you'll have to consult its documentation or the manufacturer. To check your laptop, open System Preferences. If your computer has Bluetooth installed, the distinctive Bluetooth icon will appear in the Hardware row. If it's not there, you'll need to get an add-on Bluetooth adapter.

To connect your phone to your laptop via Bluetooth, you first have to *pair* the devices. Pairing authorizes the two devices to securely talk to

continues

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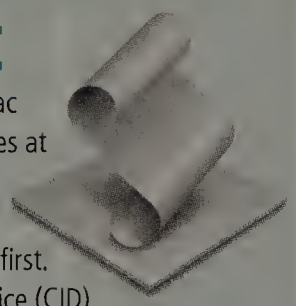
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Check the Script



Most phone manufacturers provide PC-only modem scripts. Mac users can find free scripts for many of the most common phones at www.taniwha.org.uk. GPRS users will have many different scripts to choose from for any particular cell phone.

If you have a choice, try the one with *+CGQREQ* in its name first. It's also important that the script's Connected Information Device (CID) number match your cell phone's CID number (1 through 6). You may be able to find your phone's CID number by checking its data account information screen. If not, you'll have to experiment by trying each script in turn until you find one that works.

Tip Turn Bluetooth off when you're not using it. Leaving it activated all the time could make it easier for someone to gain unauthorized access.

each other; once such a pair is created, it's remembered, and the process doesn't have to be repeated. While you may need to consult the documentation that came with your phone and Bluetooth adapter for specifics, the general procedure goes like this:

1. Activate the Bluetooth option on your cell phone. (Note that Bluetooth uses battery power, so it should be turned on only when needed.)
2. Make your cell phone discoverable by choosing the appropriate command (sometimes called Show Phone) in its Bluetooth menu.
3. Turn on Bluetooth on your laptop. Choose Apple: System Preferences, and then click on the Bluetooth icon. In the Settings tab, select Turn Bluetooth On. (As with the cell phone, turning it off when it's not in use will extend battery life.)
4. Pair the cell phone with the laptop. In the Bluetooth preference pane, open the Devices tab. Click on Set Up New Device to launch the Bluetooth Setup Assistant. Follow the on-screen instructions for setting up a mobile phone (see "Pairing Up").

Make the Call

Once you've connected your laptop to your mobile phone, you could use your phone as you would a traditional modem, dialing in to your ISP's local access number. The main appeal of this option is that it's essentially free, because it uses voice minutes from your cell-phone service plan to access your existing ISP account. However, it's painfully slow—usually no faster than 14.4 Kbps—and unreliable.

Tip You might need to upgrade your cell phone's firmware to properly handle data. Double-check with your service provider while you're signing up for data access; it can save you headaches down the line.

If you want to get online, a better solution is to subscribe to a data-access plan from your mobile-phone service provider. Prices range from $10 per month for minimal access to $80 for unlimited, all-you-can-eat data transfer.

When you sign up for data access, your cell-phone service provider should give you a connection kit with all the necessary account information, as well as a modem script file for your particular phone. If you didn't get a script, download the appropriate one from your phone manufacturer's Web site or search Google for the term *modem script* and the make and model of your cell phone.

Once you have the script, follow these steps:

1. Copy the script file into /Library/Modem Scripts.
2. Choose Apple: System Preferences, and then select the Network pane. From the Show pop-up menu, choose the port you're using. If you're using a phone connected via a USB cable, the name of the phone should appear in the list. If you're using a phone connected via Bluetooth, select Bluetooth.
3. Click on the Modem or Bluetooth Modem tab and adjust the settings as necessary for your particular phone. Depending on your phone and provider, you may need to change the defaults. Check the Read Me file that came with your modem script.

Other Cellular Options

If connecting your laptop to your cell phone seems too complicated, consider these alternatives: You could buy a midrange phone that can check your e-mail itself. Or you could get a full-fledged smart phone with its own Web browser, instant messaging, e-mail, and so on. Smart phones are convenient because you don't have to lug around your laptop, but the small screen size and often cumbersome data-input techniques may make this option impractical.

Or you could skip the phone altogether and get a cellular card for your laptop, such as the Sierra Wireless AirCard (www.sierrawireless.com). These credit card–size devices plug directly into your laptop's PC Card slot and give you access to a cellular service provider's data network without the need for a separate cell phone. □

WHAT'S YOUR NETWORK?

Trying to figure out the best way to connect your phone to your laptop? It helps to know which kind of cellular network—GSM or CDMA—your service provider uses.

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FRED JOHNSON is a product manager for iPhoto at Apple Computer.

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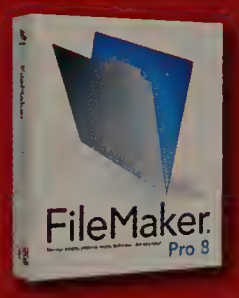
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Take Control of Text

Do you need to find a quirky string in a huge source-code file and replace it with something else? Do you need to peer into a log file and search for a specific IP address or event? You could use a command-line text editor, such as pico, nano, vi, or emacs. But if you want the power of full-featured text editing in a standard Mac app—and a free one, no less—then Bare Bones Software's TextWrangler is it (www.barebones.com).

The little brother of BBEdit, TextWrangler is perfect for people who don't want to learn the arcane commands of Terminal-based text editors. While it's not a word processor—it doesn't format text the way Microsoft Word or Apple's AppleWorks does—it can manipulate, slice, and dice text in ways you probably haven't imagined.

Master Juggler If you work on large projects—Web sites with 100-plus pages, for instance—you'll appreciate the many options TextWrangler gives you for juggling open documents. Two good choices are the Documents drawer Ⓐ with its helpful Action menu Ⓑ, and the space-saving Navigation Bar with its pop-up menu of open windows Ⓒ and left and right arrows Ⓓ.

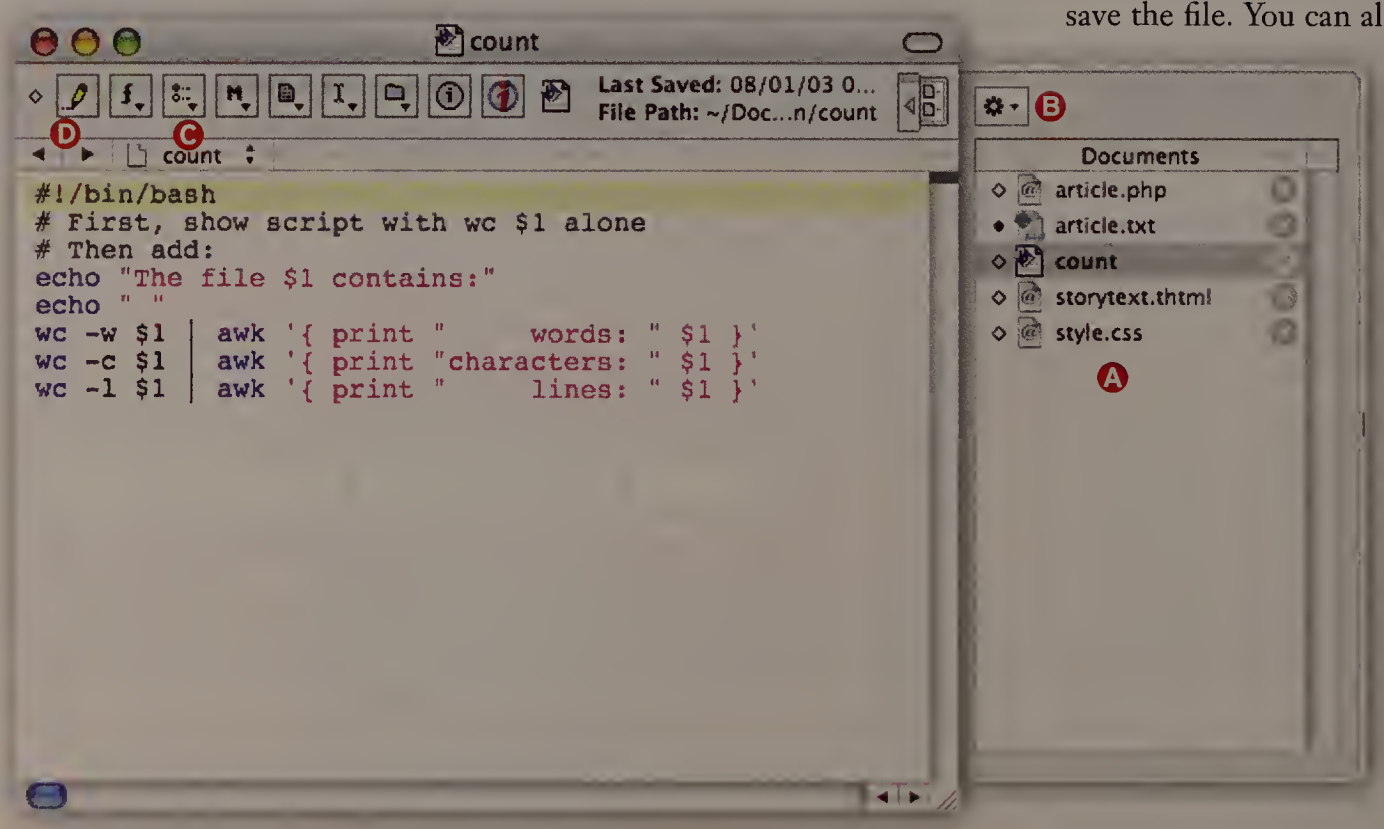
Full File Access in a Flash

Our *Geek Factor* and *Mac OS X Hints* columns often contain tips and tricks that require editing certain (usually invisible) key system files that regular users can't access. TextWrangler lets you work with these files. Select File: Open Hidden, navigate to the file you want to use, and then click on Open. You can also choose File: Open File By Name and type a file's path name, or select File: New: Disk Browser (⌘-option-N) to browse for the right file.

Root Out Files When you try to edit a file that requires special permission to access—such as /etc/httpd/httpd.conf, the configuration file for your Web server—TextWrangler tells you that root owns the file and asks if you want to unlock it. Make your changes and save the file, and TextWrangler displays an authentication dialog box where you enter an administrator's user name and password. You can use TextWrangler to edit *any* file on your Mac without ever having to open Terminal.

Travel to Terminal and Back But if you already have Terminal open, you can use TextWrangler's command-line tools to reroute files quickly into TextWrangler for editing. Install its command-line tools when you first run the program or install them later by going to TextWrangler: Preferences. Select Tools in the list and then click on Install Command Line Tools.

With those in place, simply type `edit` *`file name`* in Terminal to open any file in TextWrangler. (You'll need to enter the file's path if you're not in its directory. You can do this by dragging the file from the Finder to the Terminal prompt.) Unlike tools such as pico and vi, this command doesn't require that you use `sudo` to edit special-permissions files, since TextWrangler takes care of the authentication when you save the file. You can also use the `edit` command to open files from FTP servers, and you can even send, or *pipe*, data to the command. This is handy because you can run multiple commands linked with pipes (the pipe character [|] sends the output of one command to another), and have the results appear in a TextWrangler window.



Tip: TextWrangler can help you keep track of files, too. Drag a folder into a new document window, and you'll get a nicely formatted list of all the files and subfolders that folder contains.

continues

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The Programmer's Pal

TextWrangler, like many text editors, was created for late-night programmers who work in C++, HTML, and other computer languages. Its features can save coders a lot of time.

Keep Track of Your Code No matter what type of code you create, you'll find TextWrangler's syntax coloring easy on your eyes and a boon to your productivity. TextWrangler automatically recognizes the different tags and keywords of your favorite language—for example, C++, shell scripts, HTML, and Java—and displays them accordingly. If you don't like the default colors, go to TextWrangler: Preferences, select Text Colors, and change them. Coloring the tags makes it much easier to differentiate content from formatting in a long page of HTML. You can also see where you've started a tag that you need to finish.

Juggle Pages with Ease If you work on a project that has many files, whether it's a Web site or a development project, TextWrangler's Documents drawer Ⓐ (View: Show Documents Drawer) lets you switch from one file to another quickly (see "Master Juggler"). You can open dozens of files at the same time and switch to any of them with a click.

Tip: One of the Documents drawer's hidden talents is the ability to compare two documents—two versions of a Web page you're working on, for example. Shift-click to select two files in the drawer and then click on the Action menu Ⓑ at the top. Choose Compare Selected Documents to see how they differ line by line.

The Documents drawer isn't your only option. If you prefer separate windows, try the program's Windows palette (Window: Palettes: Windows). It assigns each window a ⌘-key shortcut, such as ⌘-1, ⌘-2, and so on, so you can move quickly between them. If screen space is tight, use the Navigation Bar (View: Show Navigation Bar) instead. Choose any open document from a pop-up menu of names Ⓒ, or move from one document to the next using the left and right arrows Ⓓ.

Fix Files from Afar Say you're on the road and you notice a glitch in one of your Web pages. You could download your HTML files from an FTP server, open the offending page, and make the change, but TextWrangler lets you do all this from within the program.

Just select File: New: FTP/SFTP Browser to display an austere FTP interface, or File: Open From FTP/SFTP Server (⌘-shift-O) to open the file as if it were located on your own hard drive. When you save the file, the program uploads the revised version to your FTP server.





Find Anything, without the Fuss

Command-line aces are undoubtedly familiar with the grep command, which lets you search for just about anything in text files. (For details, see "Find Anything with Grep" [*Geek Factor*, January 2005] at macworld.com/0734.) The powerful search ability that grep gives you is one of the best reasons to use the command line. (Spotlight can search for words or parts of words, but grep can search for patterns such as three digits, a dash, and four more digits—the pattern for a telephone number.) Even so, TextWrangler offers a high-powered find-and-replace feature that could lure even the most ardent command-line lovers away from Terminal.

TextWrangler can perform grep searches, but it also lets you do multiple file searches and color syntax in the find-and-replace boxes. That means, for example, that you could search for a specific string in a hundred files at once—without having to open the files—and replace it with another string. This is especially useful if you're changing links or e-mail addresses in a multipage Web site.

With TextWrangler, you don't have to learn regular grep expressions to perform complex searches on your files. Apply find-and-replace searches to multiple files, choose to search only in a selection, do case-sensitive searches, or match only entire words.

ICON BY PAUL HOWALT

If you choose to find all occurrences of your search string, TextWrangler displays them in a browser-style interface. Click on each result to see it in context, whether you just searched one file or thousands.

Text Time-saver

If you want to write code, tweak your Mac, or manipulate text, you need a powerful text editor. Unless you're a command-line purist, there's no reason to do without TextWrangler's ability to simplify your life. □

KIRK McELHEARN is a coauthor of *Mastering Mac OS X, Tiger Edition* (Sybex, 2005).

CHECK IT OUT

Shell Scripts 101

Looking to beef up your geek cred? Dive into the world of shell scripting. Check out "Sampling Shell Script's Superpowers," by Dave Taylor, at macworld.com/0753, to get a taste of the cool things you can do with these command-line mini-programs. Then go to macworld.com/0754 to read an excerpt from Michael Trent and Drew McCormack's *Beginning Mac OS X Programming* (Wiley, 2005), which will teach you the basics.





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Cycle Your Desktop Images

Prior to version 5, you could use iPhoto to create *cycling* desktop picture albums: You could create a new album in iPhoto, go to the Desktop tab of the Desktop & Screen Saver preference pane, and choose that album from the list of iPhoto albums. Once you selected the Change Picture option and set your desired interval, you had a changing desktop picture that revealed the album's images one by one. But the Change Picture option is always grayed out for albums (smart and standard) created in iPhoto 5 (as part of Apple's iLife '05, $79; www.apple.com).

Here's the easy workaround: in iPhoto, create an album (File: New Album) and fill it with the pictures you want to display on your desktop. Next, click on the album in the Source list and choose Edit: Select All (or press ⌘-A) to select all the images in that album. Click on the Desktop button in the iPhoto toolbar. When you do, iPhoto creates a new subfolder (called iPhoto Selection) in the iPhoto Library folder. This subfolder holds aliases of all the images in your album. The Desktop section of the Desktop & Screen Saver preference pane automatically opens, with iPhoto Selection highlighted. If you have only one monitor hooked up to your Mac, select the Change Picture option and specify the desired interval.

If you have two monitors and want the images to appear on the secondary one (the one that doesn't contain a menu bar), you won't find the iPhoto Selection option in the Desktop & Screen Saver preference pane on the second screen. Instead, you must select Choose Folder from the folder list, and then navigate to your iPhoto Library folder (*/your user name*/Pictures/iPhoto Library) in the dialog box that appears. Within the iPhoto Library folder, highlight the iPhoto Selection folder and click on Choose. Select the Change Picture option and set your time interval, and you're done.

CHECK IT OUT

Erase CD-RWs with One Click



If you use re-recordable CDs (CD-RWs), you've probably longed for a simple, Finder-based way to erase them. Currently, that job requires a trip to the Erase tab of Disk Utility (/Applications/Utilities). But if you're running Tiger, you can use Automator to build a contextual menu that lets you erase CD-RWs from the Finder.

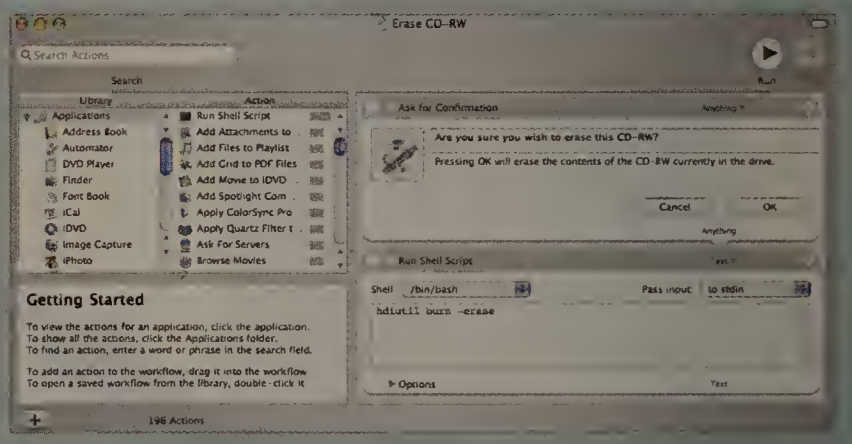
Launch Automator (/Applications) and click on the Automator entry in the Library column. In the Action column, double-click on Ask For Confirmation. The action will appear in the work area on the right side of the Automator window. Type `Are you sure you wish to erase this CD-RW?` in the message field, and then type `Pressing OK will erase the contents of the CD-RW currently in the drive.` in the explanation field.

Next, double-click on the Run Shell Script entry in the Action column. The action will appear below the Ask For Confirmation box on the right side of the window. In the Run Shell Script box, replace the word `cat` with `hdiutil burn -erase`.

When you're done, your Automator screen should look like the one shown in "The Eraser."

Choose File: Save As Plug-in and give your new plug-in a name—for example, Erase CD-RW. When you control-click on the Finder, you'll see this name under Automator in the contextual menu. Leave the Plug-in For pop-up menu set to Finder, and click on Save. Now switch back to the Finder, control-click on a mounted CD-RW, and choose Automator: Erase CD-RW from the pop-up menu. After you click on OK in response to the confirmation question, Automator will erase your CD-RW.

Note that I've tested this tip only on systems with one recordable drive. If you have both an internal and external drive, you may get unexpected results.



The Eraser Why bother with multiple clicks every time you want to erase a CD-RW? Instead, create this simple Automator action and access it from the Finder's contextual menu.

Select the Desktop from Any Finder Window

Here's a quick keyboard shortcut you may have missed. From any Finder window, you can activate the desktop by pressing ⌘-shift–up arrow. If you have your Finder preferences set to show hard disks on the desktop, this will activate the desktop with your boot disk selected. If you've chosen to hide hard drives from the desktop, then the desktop will be active with nothing selected. Press tab to select items on the desktop, one by one, in alphabetical order (numbers precede letters).

For a bunch of other Finder keyboard shortcuts, select Help: Mac Help in the Finder and then search for `shortcuts for the Finder`. Click on the result with that exact name, and you'll see a slew of handy shortcuts. (The list includes the one I just described, but in Tiger and Panther you don't need to include the option key, as the Help file states.)

Tweak the Finder for a Faster Feel

The Finder uses visual feedback to let you know what it's doing. For instance, when you double-click on a folder to open a new window, you get a subtle zoom-out effect. These animations help you understand what your machine is doing, but they can also make a not-so-powerful machine feel slower than it is. With a little help from Terminal, you can disable some or all of the Finder's animations.

Launch Terminal (/Applications/Utilities) and type the following command:

```
defaults write com.apple.finder DisableAllAnimations -bool true
```

(That's `-bool` with a lowercase *L*, not the number *1*.)

This command disables the animations, but to see the changes, you need to restart the Finder. The safest way to do this—to log out and log back in—is also the most time-consuming. Instead, just hold down the option key and then click and hold on the Finder's Dock icon. When the pop-up menu appears, select Relaunch.

After the Finder has relaunched, you'll find that window-opening and -closing animations, as well as roll-down and roll-up animations in the Get Info window, have vanished. You won't gain any real speed increases, but the Finder will *feel* snappier than before.

Another option is to reinstate the window animations while leaving the Get Info animations disabled. Return to Terminal and type these two commands:

```
defaults write com.apple.finder DisableAllAnimations -bool false
defaults write com.apple.finder AnimateInfoPanes -bool false
```

The first command reverses what you did previously. The second tells the Finder to disable only the Get Info animations. Again, you'll need to option-click and hold on the Finder's Dock icon, and then relaunch the Finder to see your changes take effect.

ICONS BY PAUL HOWALT, MUG PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER

UNIX TIP OF THE MONTH

Control Text from the Command Line

Have you ever needed to convert a text file from one format to another—say, from HTML to pure text, or from text to Microsoft Word's .doc format? Though many OS X programs are up to the task, Tiger lets you do it all from Terminal—with `textutil`. The basic form of the conversion command is as follows:

```
textutil -convert format name file name
```

(Important note: For any of these conversion commands to work, you need to either move into the directory where the files reside [using the `cd` command] or specify the file's full path. To add the path to a command, simply drag the file to the Terminal prompt.)

For example, to create a text file from the raw HTML source you saved from a Web page, you would type the following:

```
textutil -convert txt MyHTML.html
```

By default, the output file name will get its name from the input file, but the extension will match the format used in the conversion (*.txt* in this example).

The `textutil` command can do more than just convert text formats, though. The `-info` option will give you information such as type, size, length, and (for HTML files) title—just type `textutil -info file name` to see this. You can also use `textutil` to merge multiple text files into one. To merge files, you use the `-cat` option, which comes from *concatenate*, another word for *merge*. Just give `textutil` a list of files to merge, along with the format to use, like so:

```
textutil -cat txt file1.txt file2.txt file3.txt
```

When you press return, the command will merge the three files into one new file, named `out.txt` by default. If you'd like to control the output file name, just use the `-output` flag to set the path and name:

```
textutil -cat txt -output MergedFile.txt file1.txt file2.txt file3.txt
```

Notice that the output file name (`MergedFile.txt`) comes before the list of files you're merging, not after.

To enable the Get Info animations, repeat the last command but type `true` at the end instead of `false`, and then relaunch the Finder again.

Animate Keynote Slides with Quartz Composer

Here's a trick for Tiger users who work with Keynote 2 (as part of Apple's iWork '05, $79; www.apple.com). With help from one of the free Developer tools on your Tiger installation CD, you can bring the background of any given slide to life.

Install the Developer (Xcode) tools. Then open Quartz Composer (/Developer/Applications/Graphics Tools). This app is tricky to use, but you don't have to know much to use it with Keynote—you may not even have to open it. Just go to Keynote's Insert: Choose menu to import a QTZ (Quartz Composer) file.

The simplest way to start is to use some of the Apple-provided examples you'll find in the Developer folder. In Keynote's Choose dialog box, navigate to /Developer/Examples/Quartz Composer. Many of the subfolders here contain ready-to-use examples, such as Cells.qtz and Star Shine.qtz (located in the Core Image Compositions folder). Select one of these, and Keynote will insert it into the current slide.

continues



Have a hint? Go to the Mac OS X Hints Web site (www.macosxhints.com) to share it. This column was based on tips from Ted Boyston, Oliver Gagnon–van Leeuwen, Brendan Kiu, Jeremy Reichman, and anonymous contributors. Each month, the author of our favorite tip receives a Help Desk mug.

OS X 101

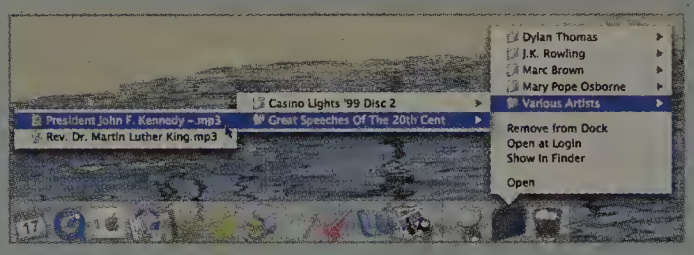
Secrets of the Dock, Part 2

In the September issue, I covered the basics of the Dock and how to use the applications stored on its left side. This month, I explore the right side (or the lower half, if you've oriented your Dock vertically).

While the left side of the Dock stores applications and *only* applications, the right side can store documents, folders, and URLs. It's also where minimized windows hide until you need them again (press ⌘-M in any open window). And it holds the Trash. You can access the Dock no matter what application you're in, so you'll always have quick access to anything you store here.

Documents If you use a file often, consider storing it on the right side of the Dock. Just drag and drop it from the Finder into the area between the divider bar and the Trash icon. You can now open this document with a single click.

Folders To store a folder, drag and drop it into any open space on the right side of the Dock. All it takes is a mouse click to see the benefit of storing a folder here. Click and hold or control-click on the folder (or right-click on it if your mouse is so equipped), and you'll see a fully navigable pop-up menu of the folder's contents (see "Deep Folder Diving"). There's no limit to the depth to which you can drill, though folders holding many items will take some time to display the first time you open them.



Deep Folder Diving Storing folders on the right side of the Dock will let you navigate their depths with a simple click.

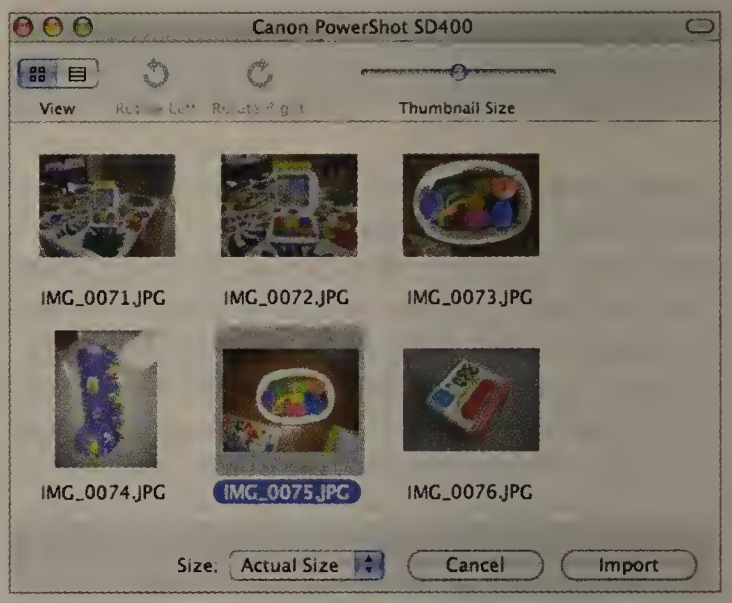
URLs If you use Apple's Safari or The Omni Group's OmniWeb (or any other browser based on Apple's open-source Web Kit), you can use the Dock to store Web addresses. Just click on the small icon next to the URL in your browser's address bar, and drag the URL into an open space on the right side of the Dock. A small spring icon with an @ symbol on top will appear. Hover the cursor over the icon, and you'll see the page's title. If you have a site (or two) that you visit all the time, this is a great way to reach it in a hurry.

Trash Tricks You may think the Trash can't do anything but delete files, but that's not true. You can use it to eject disks, iPods, and other removable media. Drag a disk over the Trash icon, and it changes into an eject icon.

With the right side of the Dock, toolbars, and the Sidebar, OS X gives you a number of ways to keep often-accessed items close at hand.

You can treat the animation just as you would any other Keynote object. Add a drop shadow, adjust its transparency, and even scale it (though you may see some jagged images when you greatly increase the size of an animation). When you enter the slide-show mode, the animation comes to life. If you place the Quartz Composer animation on a slide with photo cutouts, you can even put the animation behind the cutout (using Arrange: Send Backward), for some visually interesting effects.

If you want to use an example that needs editing, such as Slide.qtz from the Parametrizable Compositions folder, you'll need to do a bit of work within Quartz Composer itself. Double-click on the sample composition in the Finder, and Quartz Composer opens in Edit mode. To use Slide.qtz, for instance, you'd want to get rid of all the text, leaving just the animated background. In Quartz Composer's Editor window, click and drag to select every box except for the pink Clear (1) and Lighting (2) boxes near the top. Then press the delete key or choose Edit: Delete. The Viewer window reflects your changes, and the text vanishes. Choose File: Save As to save your modified composition to a new location so you don't overwrite the original. Switch back to Keynote and insert the new version to create a pleasant blue background.



Preview Picker There's no need to use iPhoto or Image Capture if you want to download just one picture out of many. Use the newest version of Preview to import a particular image directly from your digital camera.

You can do a lot with the example files, but to create your own fancy backgrounds, you'll have to learn the program. For more information, see "Tiger's Secret Tools" (*Geek Factor*, September 2005) at macworld.com/0704 or read Apple's documentation at macworld.com/0575.

Import Particular Images Quickly with Preview

Have a photo on your digital camera that you need to work with but don't want in your iPhoto library? Say you had to take a couple of product shots at work, or maybe you took a photo of a document as a quick-and-dirty way of scanning it. Sure, you could launch iPhoto, import *all* the images in the camera, and then copy just the one you want to work with. You could also use Image Capture (/Applications) to download the images. In Tiger, though, you have a third, simpler choice.

Plug in your camera and make sure it's powered up; then launch Preview. (Quit iPhoto if it launches automatically and offers to import the images.) Choose File: Import Image. After choosing your camera from the list of devices, you'll see a small Image Capture–like window that lets you select any one image from your camera for direct import into Preview (see "Preview Picker"). You can even change the image's size.

Once you've imported the image, save it using any of Preview's supported image formats, available from the File: Save As menu item. □

Senior Editor ROB GRIFFITHS is the author of *Mac OS X Power Hound, Panther Edition* (O'Reilly, 2004), and runs the Mac OS X Hints Web site (www.macosxhints.com).

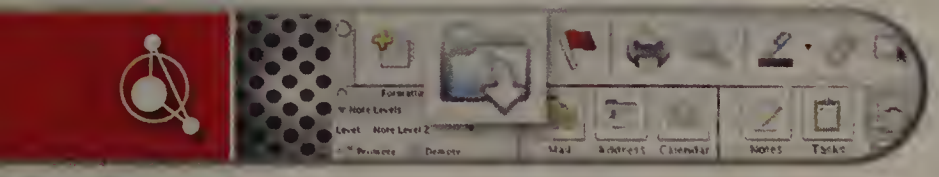
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Solutions to Your Most Vexing Mac Problems

Classic Conundrum

I erased my Power Mac G4's hard drive during a clean install of OS X 10.4. Now I can't seem to reinstall OS 9 to run the Classic environment. Is there a way to install Mac OS 9 while my system is running Tiger?

Rob Prosky

Although Tiger supports the Classic environment, it doesn't install the OS 9 components necessary to run applications in that environment. For that, you'll need the installation discs that came in the box with your Mac. With my Power Mac G5, I can install OS 9 using the Install Additional Software installer that's found on the Additional Software & AHT disc. You'll likely find such an installer on a separate disc called Power Mac G4 Mac OS 9 Install, or on a software-restore disc.

If you'll be using OS 9 only in the Classic environment, you needn't worry about how your hard drive is formatted. However, if you intend to *boot* your Mac into OS 9, you have to put the OS 9 driver on the OS 9 boot volume. The option for installing the driver is in both the Erase tab and the Partition tab of Disk Utility (/Applications/Utilities). To install the driver, you must reformat the drive or partition.

iPod Safety Net

My entire iTunes Music Library has disappeared. However, 5,624 of my songs are on my 40GB iPod. If I could retrieve all of them, I will have lost only a total of 35 songs. Is there a way to recover my music from my iPod?

Mike Quinn

When the Music Stops There's no need to despair if you spill coffee on your iBook and fry your music collection. As long as your songs are on your iPod, Senuti can help you recover them.



There are many ways to do what you ask. Of the myriad utilities for moving music from an iPod to a Mac's hard drive, I prefer Whitney Young's Senuti (macworld.com/0721). I like Senuti because it's free, because it's faster than many similar utilities, and because it, unlike a lot of iPod recovery tools, will copy not only the music but also any playlists stored on the iPod (see "When the Music Stops").

The Little App Factory's iPodRip ($15; macworld.com/0722) is another good choice. You're allowed to use it ten times for free before you have to pony up the modest shareware fee. This is quite a bargain, considering that unless you're an extremely unlucky individual, you shouldn't have to recover music from your iPod more than a couple of times.

Preview MIA

I have an iMac G4 with OS X 10.3.9 and cannot get a preview when printing from Microsoft Word. I think the problem is related to the fact that the Preview application won't open when clicked on directly. I just downloaded and installed the OS X 10.3.9 update combo, but it didn't help.

David Key

When an application acts up and restarting your Mac doesn't make it settle down, try deleting its preferences file. When these files become scrambled, odd things can happen—for example, the application can fail to launch. You can usually find your preferences files by following this path: */your user folder/* Library/Preferences. In this case, you're looking for the file named com.apple.Preview.plist.

If that doesn't work, your next step is to launch Disk Utility, click on the First Aid tab, select your startup drive, and click on the Repair Disk Permissions button. This is a good all-purpose solution—sometimes it will fix the problem, but if it doesn't, it won't usually do any harm.

Still no luck? Before reinstalling the application, try repairing the drive by restarting the Mac while holding down ⌘-S (to boot into Single User Mode). Once the Mac has booted to the black screen with white letters, type `fsck -fy` and press return to repair the drive. If your Mac reports problems, re-enter `fsck -fy` until you get a clean report. When it reports no problems, type `reboot` and press return to restart the Mac.

Finally, if nothing else works, reinstall the problem application. If one of OS X's built-in applications,

such as Preview or iChat, is giving you trouble, you can use CharlesSoft's Pacifist ($20; www.charlessoft.com) to extract the single application from the Mac OS X installation disc.

Make Your Mark

I have a third-generation iPod, and it won't bookmark the Podcasts I download from the iTunes Music Store. Is there any way for me to bookmark these files?

Gwen Hunter

Ah, the convenience of bookmarking—listen to a bit of a Podcast on your iPod or computer and then play some different tracks, and when you return to the Podcast, it picks up where it left off. You're not alone in wishing you could do this. Click Wheel iPods will bookmark Podcasts, but earlier iPods won't. Thankfully, there's a way to convert the files so you can bookmark them on your iPod, no matter what its age.

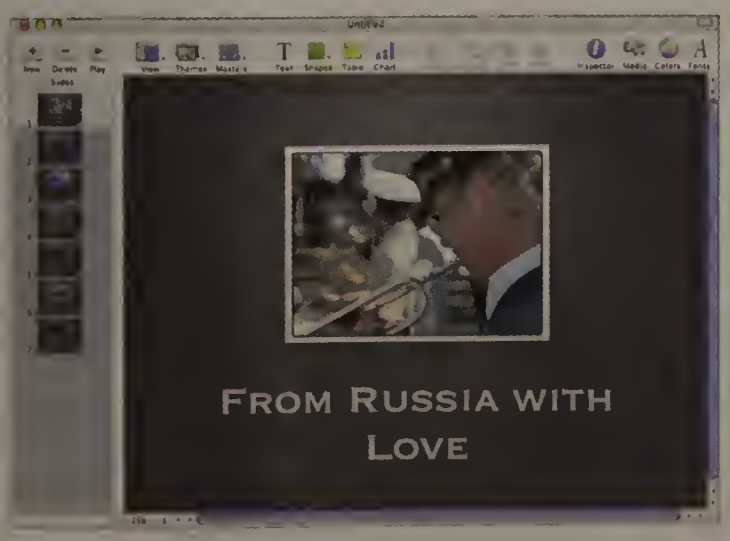
One method is to use Thunderstone Media's iPodderX ($25; ipodderx.com) to download your Podcasts. Enable the Convert Audio Files To AAC and Make AAC Files Bookmarkable options in the Subscriptions pane of the program's Preferences window. With these options selected, iPodderX converts Podcasts into AAC files and then converts them to a bookmarkable form that all iPods can understand.

Alternatively, you can convert any non-AAC Podcast within iTunes by selecting the Podcast and then choosing Advanced: Convert Selection To AAC. (If you don't see that menu option, go to iTunes: Preferences, click on Importing, and select AAC Encoder from the Import Using pop-up menu.) Once you've converted the file, download Doug Adams's free Make Bookmarkable AppleScript from Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes site (macworld.com/0723) and use it to make those files bookmarkable.

Slicker Slide Shows

I like making slide shows of my digital photos. I could do this in iPhoto, but I use iMovie instead so I can add titles and have more control over the audio. Still, I wish I could use iPhoto's Page Flip and Cube transitions. Is there any way to bridge this gap?

Charlie Frick



Keynote State Keynote is more than a PowerPoint substitute. You can use it to generate slide shows of your photos.

You can approach this problem from a couple of different angles. If you'd like to work within iPhoto, which Apple's iLife '05 includes ($79; www.apple.com), you don't have to do without titles. Create a title image (white text on a black background, for example) in a graphics application, save it as a JPEG, import it into iPhoto, and include it as part of your slide show. The downside of this technique is that your titles have to be static images—you won't get the swoopy-doopy moving titles you can create in iMovie.

Alternatively, you can create the slide show in iPhoto, choose Share: Export to save it as a QuickTime movie, and then import it into iMovie. There, you use Edit: Split Clip At Playhead to break up the video as needed; then you can insert titles where you like.

Yet another alternative is to create the slide show in iMovie and use some of the many third-party iMovie transitions available today. GeeThree.com (www.geethree.com) offers tons of transitions (as well as titles and effects) in its many Slick Transitions & Effects packages, priced at $30 to $70 per set and also available in bundles. If a comprehensive package of transitions is more than you need, check out cf/x (www.imovieplugins.com), which offers single transitions; prices range from free to $5.50 each.

But wait, there's more! A visitor to the Mac 911 forums at Macworld.com suggests that you create a presentation in Keynote, included in Apple's iWork '05 ($79; www.apple.com). Put one picture on each slide and use cool transitions (see "Keynote State"). Then save that presentation as a QuickTime movie, ready for import into iMovie.

Protecting Archives

Is there a way to secure an archive with a password?

Alberto Martinez

If you select a file in the Finder and choose File: Create Archive, you won't see an encryption option.

continues

TIP OF THE MONTH

'Bird and the Word

In the August issue, you suggested that a reader who wanted to send e-mail messages with embedded HTML should use a third-party AppleScript and Microsoft Entourage, included in Office 2004 ($399; www.microsoft.com). An easier solution is to use the free Mozilla Thunderbird e-mail client (macworld.com/0727) to create this sort of composition.

I use the Insert: HTML option every month to send out my company's HTML newsletter from my PowerBook, and the results work like a charm on every e-mail client I've tested. Furthermore, Thunderbird has many other useful features that make it a worthy adversary of (or companion to) Apple's Mail.

John Rork

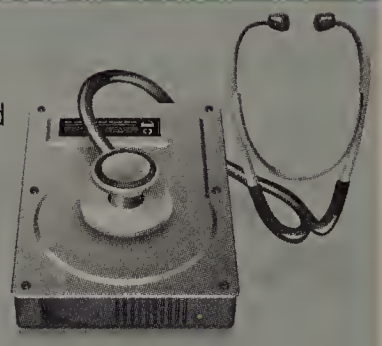


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TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Disk Utility Tricks



Each month, I look outside Mac OS for helpful tools and utilities that can make a misbehaving Mac toe the line. This month, I'd like to turn inward and look at a multitalented tool that's often overlooked—Apple's Disk Utility, located in your /Applications/Utilities folder.

You probably already know that you can use Disk Utility's First Aid tab to verify and repair disk permissions, as well as volumes other than the startup volume. But there's a lot more to Tiger's Disk Utility.

> **Wipe Out** For example, if you'd like to protect old erased data from prying eyes, select a volume and click on the Security Options button in Disk Utility's Erase tab. Here you can choose to write zeros over all the data on the disk, write nonsense data seven times over the entire disk, or write nonsense data 35 times over the disk.

> **Rig Up RAID** It used to be a pain to create a RAID (Redundant Array of Independent Disks)—a scheme that turns multiple hard drives into one high-performance volume. No longer. Just connect a couple of drives to your Mac (I've found that daisy-chaining two FireWire drives from a single FireWire port is a good way to go), click on the RAID tab, drag the drives into the list box, and choose the RAID type. Mirrored RAID duplicates files on each drive so you won't lose data when a drive fails. Striped RAID splits data into stripes on each drive. Concatenated RAID, the oldest method, simply combines multiple drives into one big ol' volume.

> **Restore More** When you want to move data from an old Mac to a new one, take a tour of Disk Utility's Restore tab. Here you can easily create a disk image of a drive or volume and then later restore the data on that image or drive to another volume. Drag the disk or volume that holds the data to the Source field. Drag the disk or volume that will receive the data to the Destination field. Click on Restore to move your data from here to there. (For more information about moving files, see "Old Files, New Mac" [*Working Mac*, September 2005] at macworld.com/0729.)

> **Make Multisession Discs** Select a disk image, click on the Burn button, insert a disc, and click on the triangle in the Burn sheet to reveal the Leave Disc Appendable option, which allows you to burn discs in more than one session.

> **Erase Rewritables** Erase a rewritable disc by selecting it in Disk Utility's source list, clicking on the Erase tab, and clicking on Erase.

> **Say the Password** Use the Disk Image From Folder command to create compressed, password-protected archives.

> **Eject Stubborn Discs** If a disc is stuck in your media drive, try using Disk Utility's Eject button to remove it.

> **Find a Classic Fix** Choose Fix OS 9 Permissions from Disk Utility's File menu to do just that in the Classic environment.

But you can use Apple's Disk Utility to create encrypted disk-image archives. To do so, create a folder and place anything you want to archive and encrypt inside it. Launch Disk Utility and choose File: New: Disk Image From Folder. (If you're using Panther, go to Images: New: Disk Image From Folder.) In the resulting dialog box, navigate to the folder you just created and click on Image.

In the New Image From Folder dialog box that appears, choose Compressed from the Image Format pop-up menu and AES-128 (Recommended) from the Encryption pop-up menu. Click on Save. You'll soon see an Authenticate dialog box. Enter and verify a password for the archive. If you don't want the image to decrypt automatically when opened from your user account, disable the Remember Password (Add To Keychain) option. (In other words, if other people will operate your Mac while logged in to your user account, disable this option so they'll need the password to decrypt the archive.) Click on OK to create the encrypted and compressed archive. Note that you can use these archives only on a Mac—Windows won't have a clue what to do with them.

You can also create password-protected archives with Allume's StuffIt Standard Edition ($50; www.stuffit.com)—an option that makes sense if you need to e-mail archives that work on the Mac and on Windows.

Fax Facts

Having given away my old, reliable Brother fax machine, and needing to send a fax, I thought I'd give the fax feature on the Mac a try. The result was zero. Nothing. No matter what I tried, it wouldn't work. I'm using OS X 10.3.9. In particular, I'm confused by the drop-down fax window that asks which modem I want to use. I'm using DSL, not a dial-up modem. What am I missing here?

Don King

You're missing the notion that traditional faxes send analog signals over analog modems via analog phone lines, whereas your DSL modem uses digital signals.

It's possible that the wall jack you're using for your DSL connection also supports analog calls—a quick way to test it is to plug a phone into that jack and listen for a dial tone. If the jack works, you can plug both the DSL modem and your Mac's modem into the jack, using a line splitter.

If not, you need to plug your Mac's modem into a standard phone line or transmit the fax to a compatible mobile phone using Bluetooth. Adding a Bluetooth fax-modem device is a somewhat convoluted process, and not all mobile phones and services support faxing. But if you're thinking about faxing via a Bluetooth phone (and you use Panther or Tiger), read Apple's Knowledge Base article "Adding a Bluetooth Fax Device" at macworld.com/0726.

Another option is to do all your faxing online, through a service such as eFax (www.efax.com). For $12.95 a month, you can send faxes via eFax's eFax Messenger software or the Web. When people send you faxes, they use your personal eFax number (usually with the area code of your choice). eFax receives the fax, converts it to a graphics file, and mails it to your e-mail account as an attachment. ☐

Contributing Editor CHRISTOPHER BREEN is the editor in chief of Playlistmag.com and the author of *Secrets of the iPod and iTunes*, fifth edition (Peachpit Press, 2005).

ICON BY PAUL HOWALT

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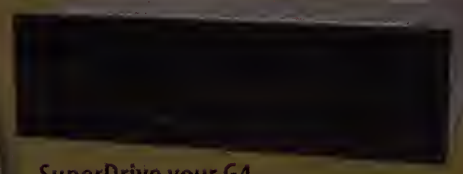
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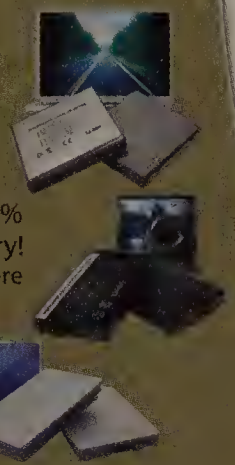
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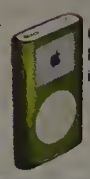
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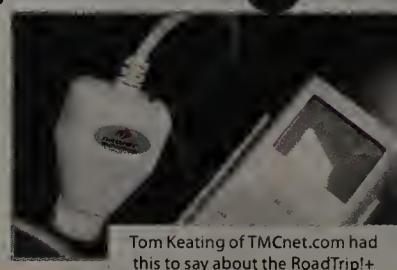
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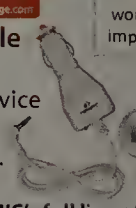
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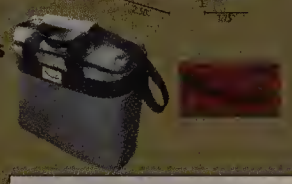
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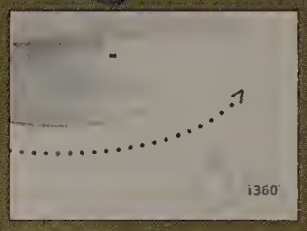
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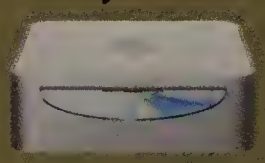
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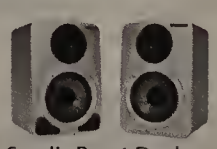


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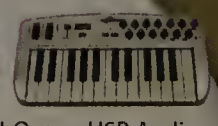
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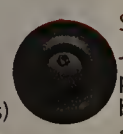
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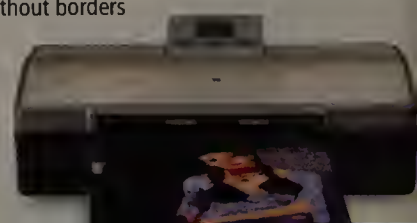
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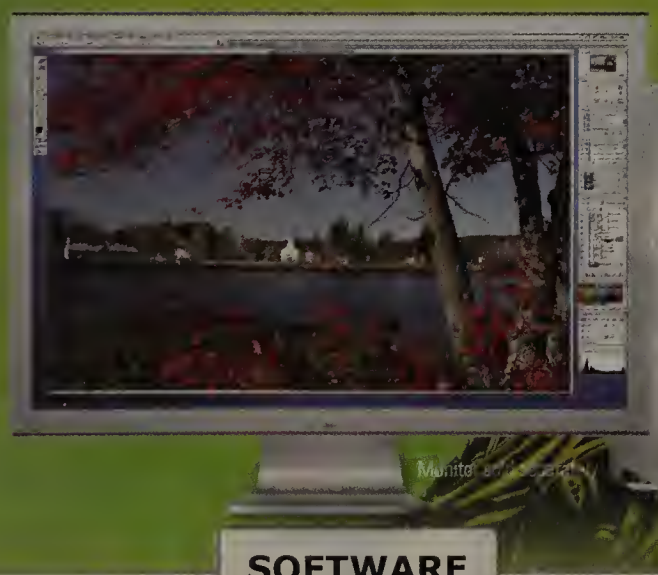
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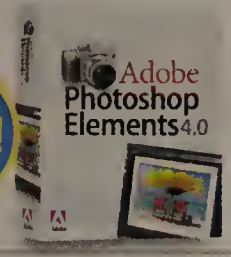
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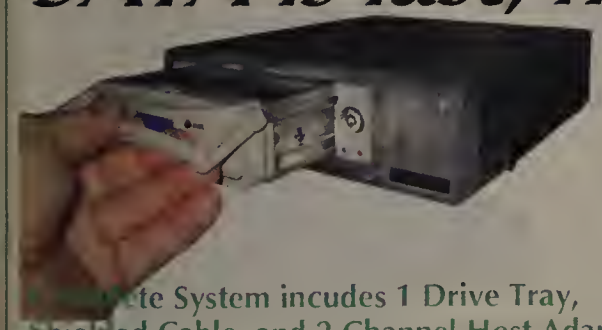
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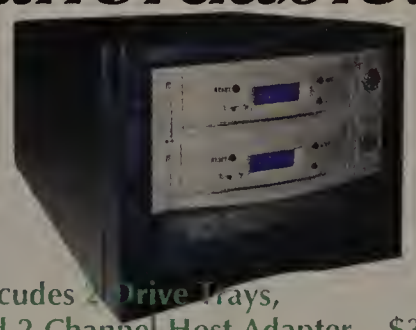
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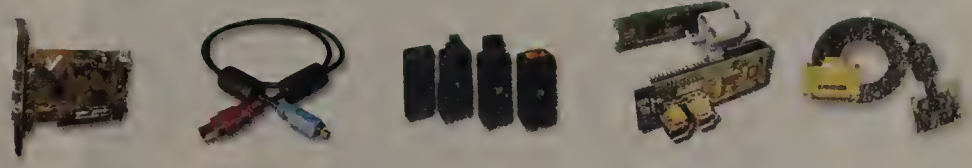
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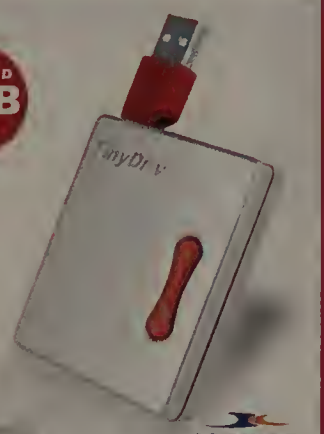
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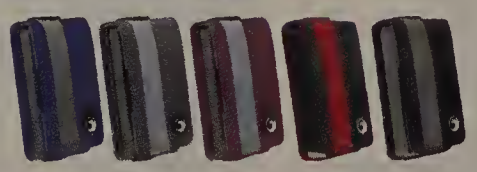
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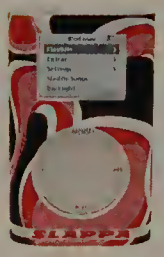


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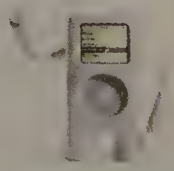
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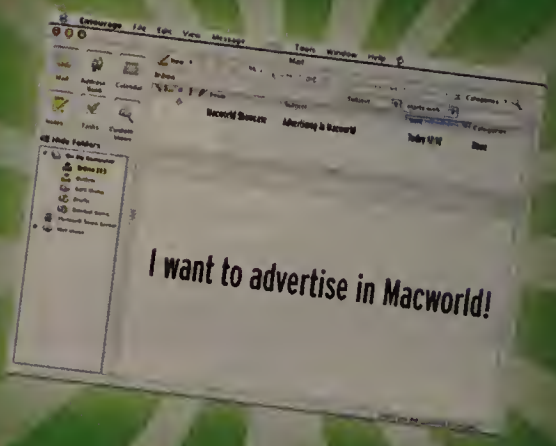


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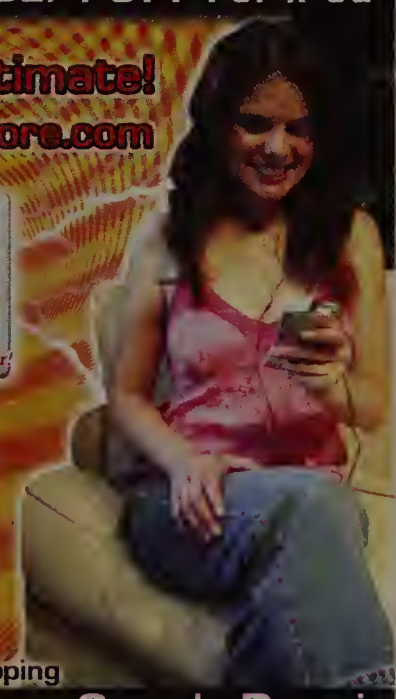
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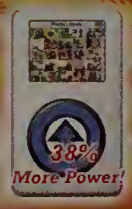
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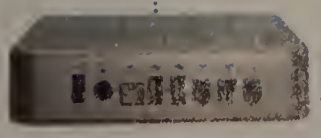
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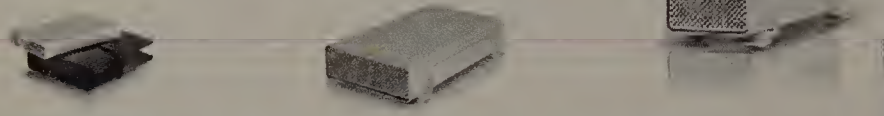
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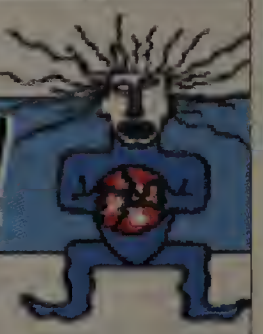


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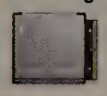
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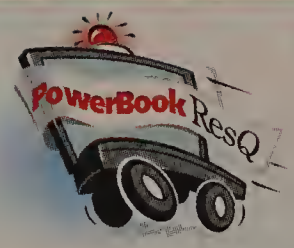
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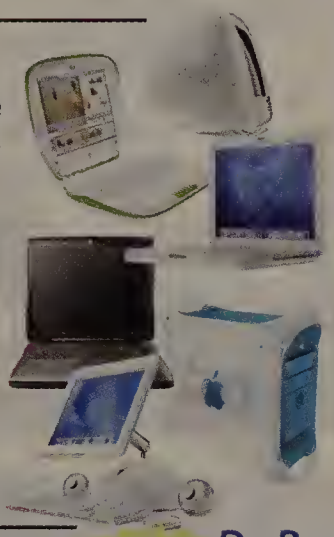
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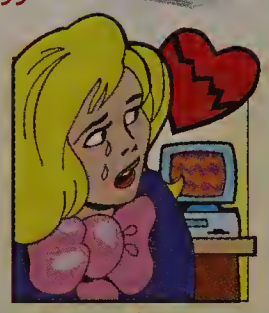
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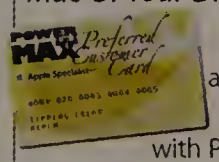
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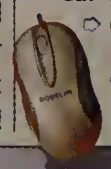
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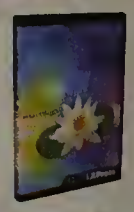
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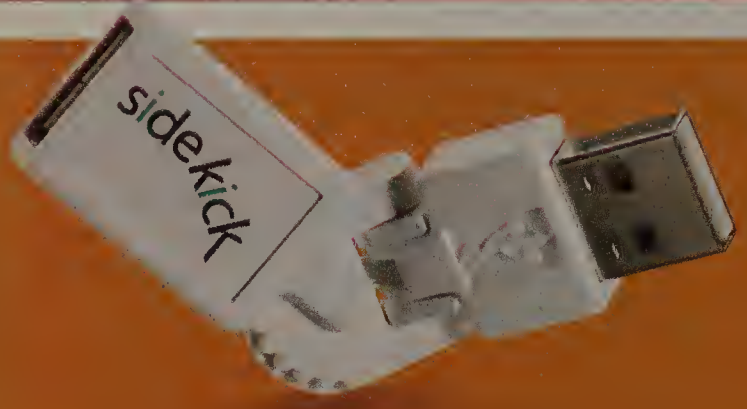
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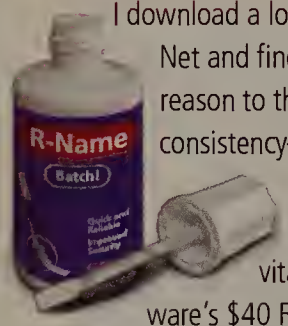
FROM THE EDITORS OF MACWORLD



SIDEKICK

I've found a new addition for my PowerBook bag, and its name is Sidekick. Sonnet Technologies' $13 USB 2.0 contraption rotates 180 degrees left and right and bends up and down to give your USB cable some breathing room. It's perfect for use on a plane flight when your USB cord is sticking out a bit too far, or when you need to connect your iPod shuffle or USB flash-memory drive without rudely poking your neighbor. What's more, it's just fun to play with (www.sonnettech.com).—JENNIFER BERGER

R-Name 3.0



I download a lot of (legal) live music from the Net and find that often there's no rhyme or reason to the way people name files. For consistency—and the ability to find particular concerts on my computer—a renaming utility is vital to me. SkyTag Software's $40 File Buddy does a great job, but it's overkill for this specific task. Instead, I've found that Yogurt of Technology's free R-Name 3.0 is all I need. It can quickly add or remove text from file names, change cases, replace extensions, and sequentially rename groups of files. Its only flaw is that it deletes a file's Spotlight comments—but for me, that's not an issue (macworld.com/0752).—JONATHAN SEFF

Smithsonian Global Sound

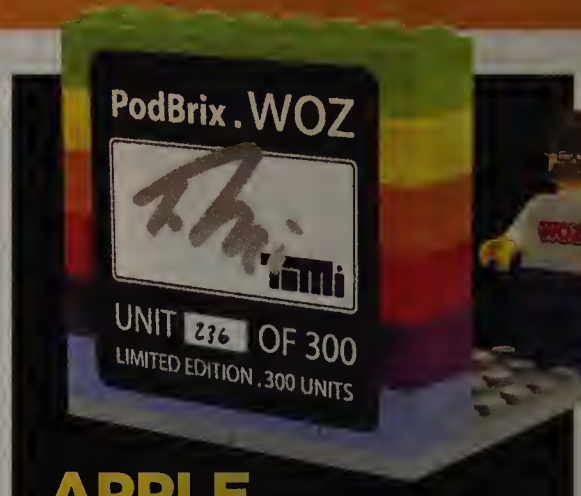
Good roots music can be hard to find, and digitizing what I do find can be a pain. That's why I'm so excited about Smithsonian Global Sound—the folk-music lover's answer to the iTunes Music Store. It has everything from Woody Guthrie to Afrikaans children's folk songs to music from traditional Japanese folk dances. The selection is deep, and royalties go to artists. The MP3 files start at 99 cents and may cost more, depending on track length (www.smithsonianglobalsound.org).—SCHOLLE SAWYER McFARLAND



WHAT'S HOT

Brought to you by John Moltz of the Crazy Apple Rumors Site (www.crazyapplerumors.com)

1. **In Virginia, a mad rush for $50 used iBooks injures several people.**
   In Missouri, a "free iPod" giveaway turned ugly when organizers tried to give away Creative Zen players instead.
2. **Apple tells a French Web site to remove pictures of OS X running on a PC.**
   Apple also demands an end to hacking, an endless summer, and peace on earth.
3. **The iTunes Music Store is now available in Japan.**
   Three words: Hello Kitty Podcast.
4. **Apple comes out on top in a customer-service survey; Dell falls behind.**
   Industry experts question Dell's decision to hire 100 angry Luddites as help-desk staff.



APPLE LEGO ART

As a Mac geek, I love seeing Apple lore captured in art. So I was thrilled to find out that an artist known as Tomi has been creating iPod- and Apple-themed art with Legos since early 2005. The latest creation—which went on sale in early August and promptly sold out—is the "Woz" minifig (miniature figurine). It depicts Apple cofounder Steve Wozniak in tiny plastic form, complete with beard and glasses. Be sure to watch the Web site for Tomi's next limited-edition creation. But if you really want one—and are willing to pay a premium—you can often find Tomi's work on eBay (www.podbrix.com).—CYRUS FARIVAR

SIDEKICK PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER



iPOD AND POWERBOOK ETCHINGS

Sometimes the stylish—but, let's face it, austere—appearance of an iPod or a PowerBook seems too boring for my tastes. So I was happy to come across Etchamac.com, a company that will laser etch your favorite custom design onto the back of your iPod or iPod mini or onto the aluminum lid of your PowerBook. You can use text, logos, or images—anything that can be represented in black, gray, and white. iPod etchings range in price from $20 to $50, and PowerBook etchings cost from $35 to $200—a small price to pay for individuality (www.etchamac.com).—DAN FRAKES

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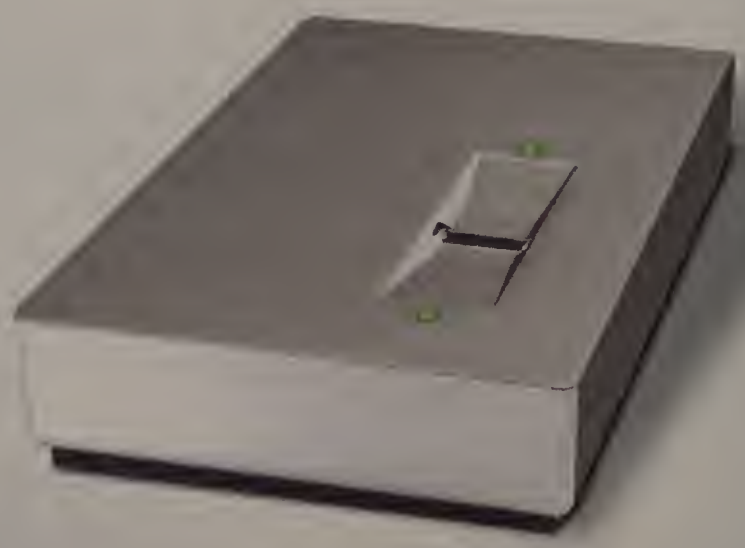
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